

Monitoring Wetland Hydrology

BWSR Academy
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Eric Mohring
eric.mohring@state.mn.us
651-297-7360

Monitoring Wetland Hydrology

- ❖ What is Monitoring?
- ❖ Why Monitor?
- ❖ What's the question?



What is Monitoring?

Evaluation over a period of time of one or more of :

Indicators

Ground Water levels:

- saturation depths
- piezometric “head” or potential

Surface Water levels:

- ponding
- flooding

Water Budget Inputs & Outputs

- precipitation
- surface water inflow & outflow
- ground water inflow & outflow

Why Monitor Hydrology?

- “Beyond delineation”
- Verify site wetness
(depth, duration, frequency)
- Verify delineations, resolve disputes
- Determine water movement
- Restoration/replacement success
- Wetland creation potential
- Functional assessments
- Calcareous fen determination

Monitoring Wetland Hydrology

- VERY Important to agree on the **QUESTION** before monitoring.



Wetland determination

- Is wetland hydrology present?
- What are the wetland types present?

Wetland delineation & boundary determination

- Is wetland hydrology present?
- Where is the wetland/non-wetland hydrology boundary?

Functional
assessment:
depth, duration,
frequency,
timing of
wetness.

- Depth of water table?
- Duration, frequency of saturation?
- Seasonality?

Functional
assessment:
Determine
Inputs &
outputs

- How does wetland interact with ground water (recharge or discharge)?
- How does water flow into or out of the wetland?

Potential for wetland restoration or creation

- What is the lateral effect of a drain or ditch?
- What depth is the water table?
- What are the hydrologic inputs and outputs?

Evaluate hydrologic alteration

- What is the lateral effect of a drain or ditch?
- Has a wetland been effectively drained? Or partially drained?
- How well is drain tile functioning?

Success of wetland restoration or replacement


- How much has water table depth changed since drain was removed?
- Has wetland hydrology been restored?
- Is restored hydrology adequate to support planned plant communities

Calcareous fen ?

- What is the direction of ground water flow?
- Does ground water discharge to the wetland?
- If so, is the discharging ground water alkaline?

“Levels” of Hydrologic Monitoring

← Increasing Effort

- 
- Observation of Wetland Hydrology Indicators
 - Water level measurements in boreholes

- Manual surface water level measurements (in ponds, water control structures, culverts, ...)

- Surface water level measurements – staff gauges

- Monitoring Wells – manual measurements

- Automated surface water level measurements (water level data loggers)

- Automated monitoring well measurements (water level data loggers)

Wetland Hydrology Indicators



Regional Supplements

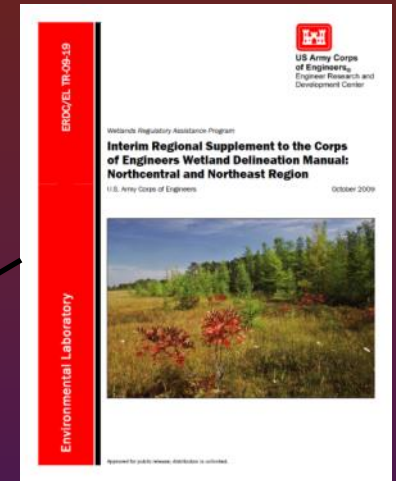
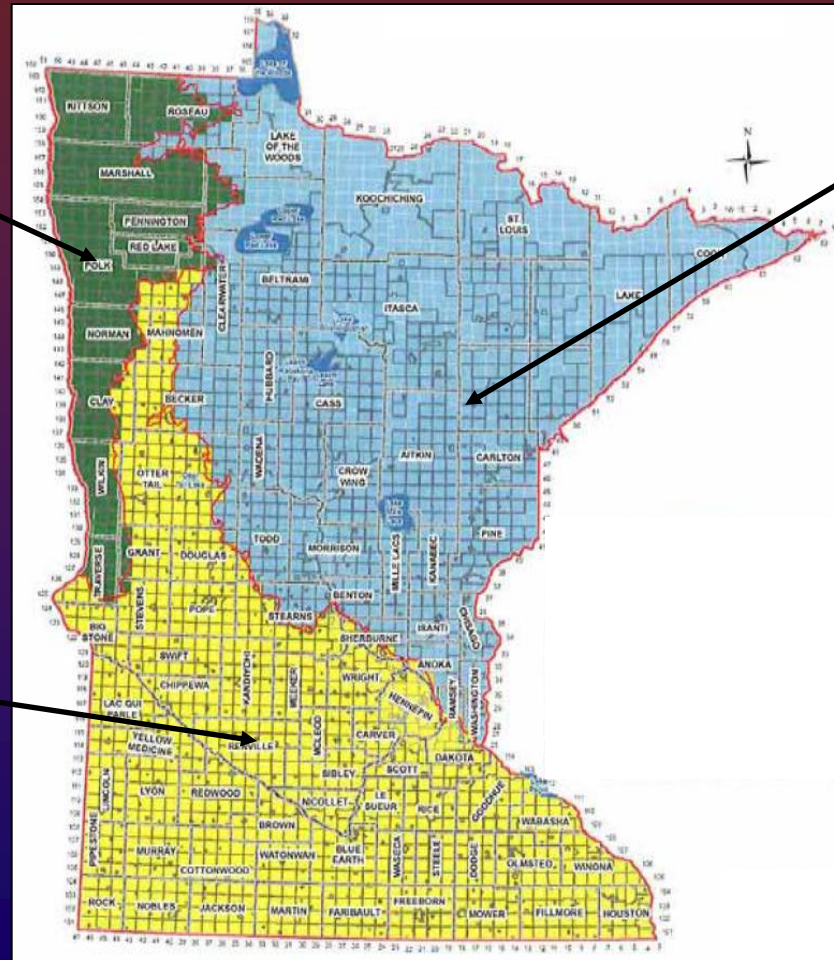


Table 9. Wetland hydrology indicators for the Midwest Region.

Indicator	Category	
	Primary	Secondary
Group A – Observation of Surface Water or Saturated Soils		
A1 – Surface water	X	
A2 – High water table	X	
A3 – Saturation	X	
Group B – Evidence of Recent Inundation		
B1 – Water marks	X	
B2 – Sediment deposits	X	
B3 – Drift deposits	X	
B4 – Algal mat or crust	X	
B5 – Iron deposits	X	
B7 – Inundation visible on aerial imagery	X	
B8 – Sparsely vegetated concave surface	X	
B9 – Water-stained leaves	X	
B13 – Aquatic fauna	X	
B14 – True aquatic plants	X	
B6 – Surface soil cracks		X
B10 – Drainage patterns		X
Group C – Evidence of Current or Recent Soil Saturation		
C1 – Hydrogen sulfide odor	X	
C3 – Oxidized rhizospheres along living roots	X	
C4 – Presence of reduced iron	X	
C6 – Recent iron reduction in tilled soils	X	
C7 – Thin muck surface	X	
C2 – Dry-season water table		X
C8 – Crayfish burrows		X
C9 – Saturation visible on aerial imagery		X
Group D – Evidence from Other Site Conditions or Data		
D9 – Gauge or well data	X	
D1 – Stunted or stressed plants		X
D2 – Geomorphic position		X
D5 – FAC-neutral test		X

Wetland Hydrology Indicators

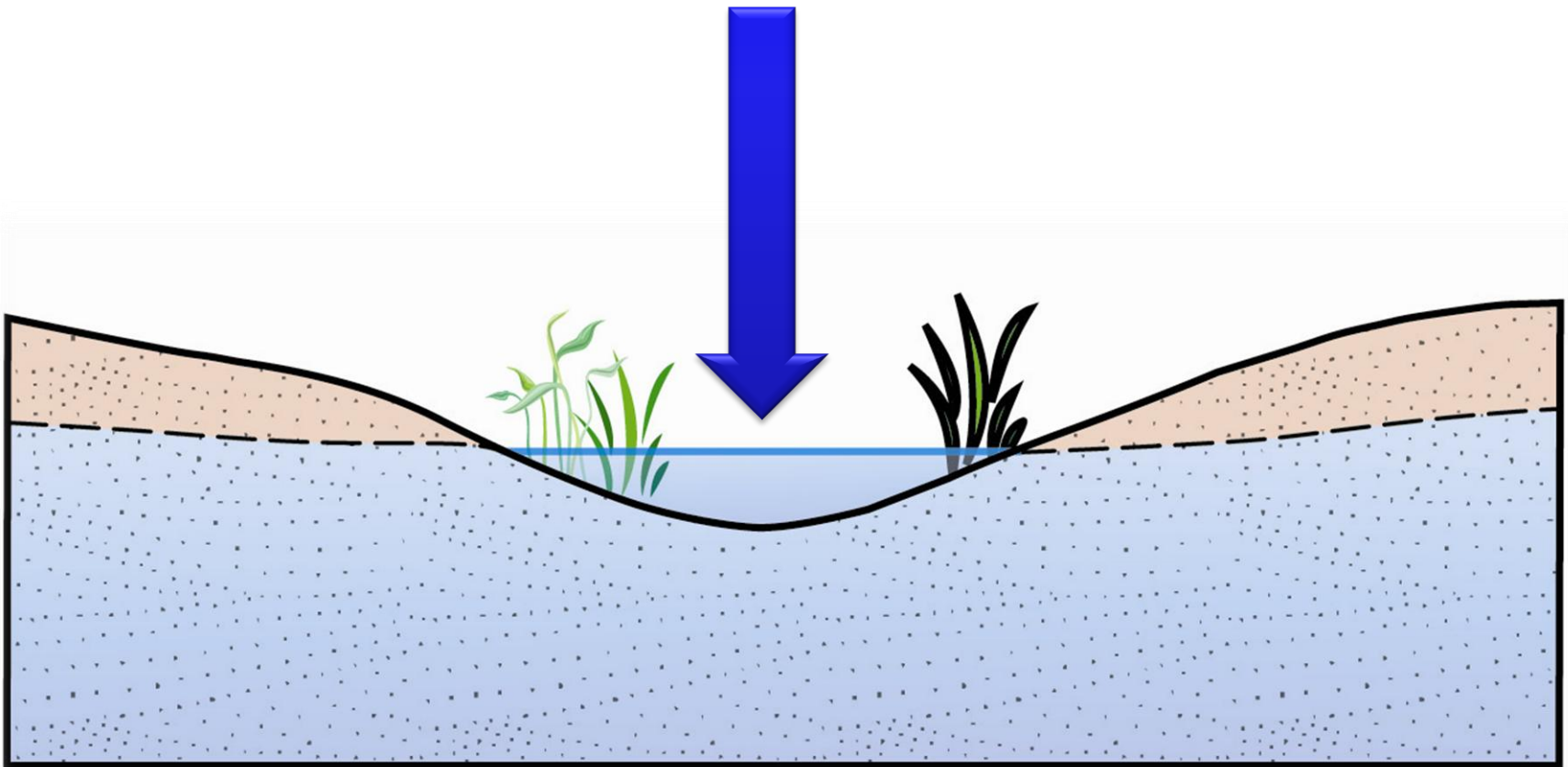
- ❖ Indicators in the 87 Manual are gone (10 indicators).
- ❖ Replaced by Chapter 4 of the regional supplements (25 to 29 indicators).



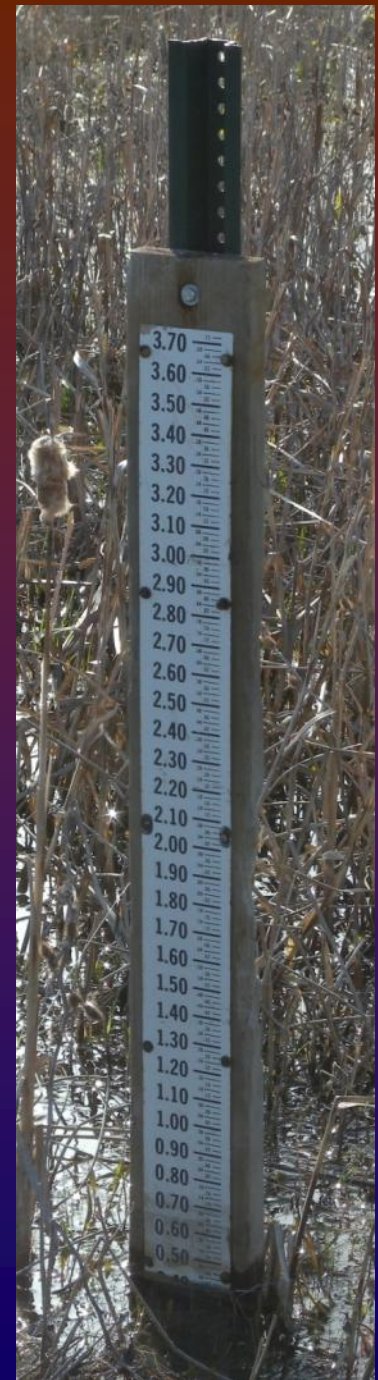
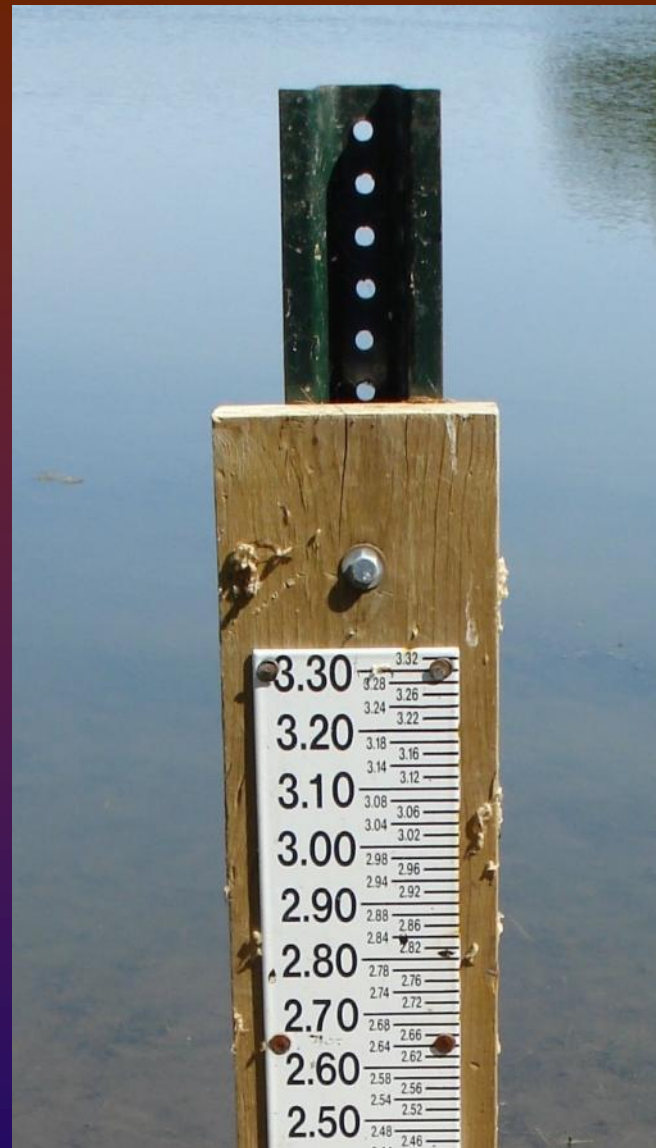
Water level measurements in boreholes

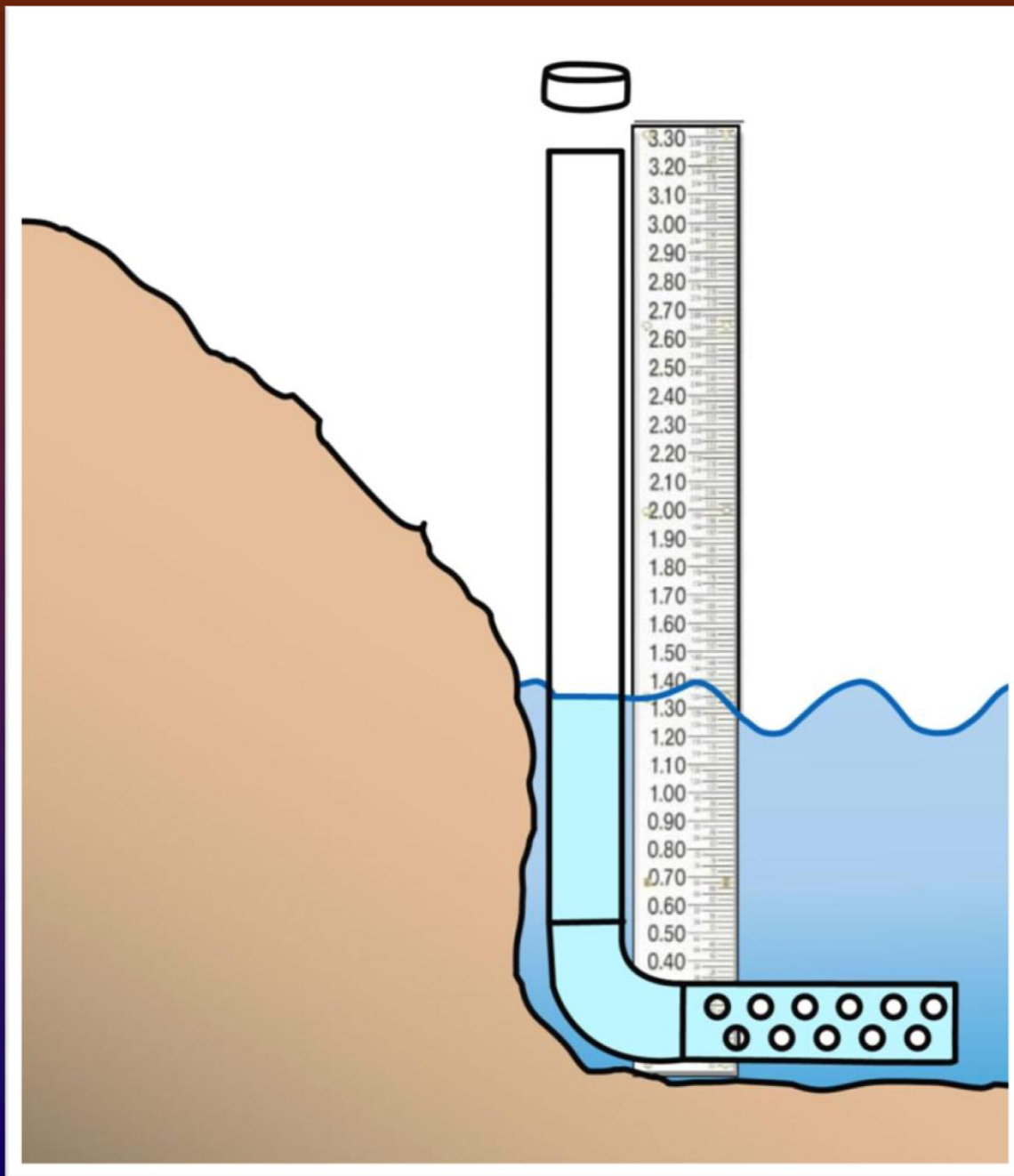
- Allow time to equilibrate
- Watch out for smearing

Surface Water Levels



Staff Gauges



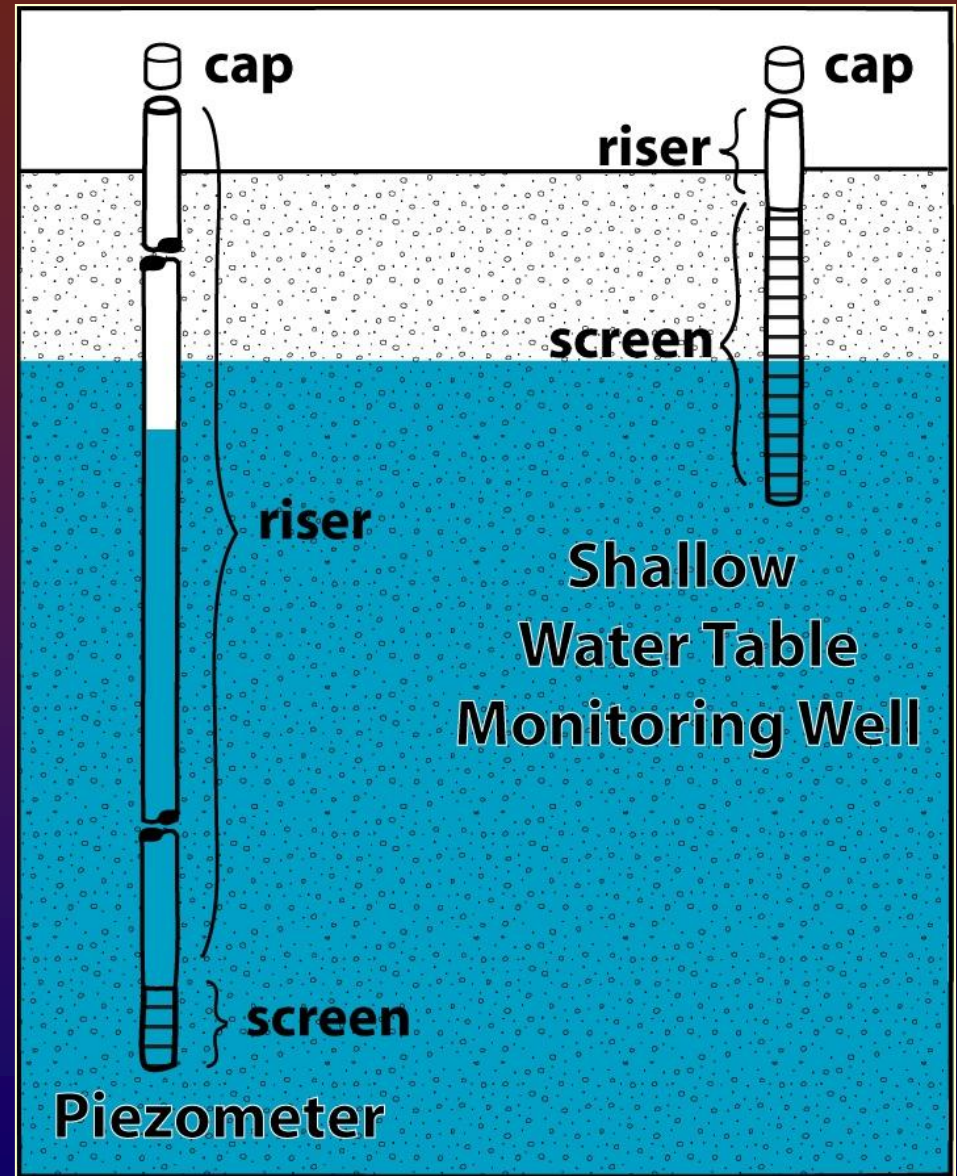


Stilling Well

Water Control Structure



- ❖ Water Table Monitoring Wells
- ❖ Piezometers



Terminology & Semantics

Monitoring Well

Well

Piezometer

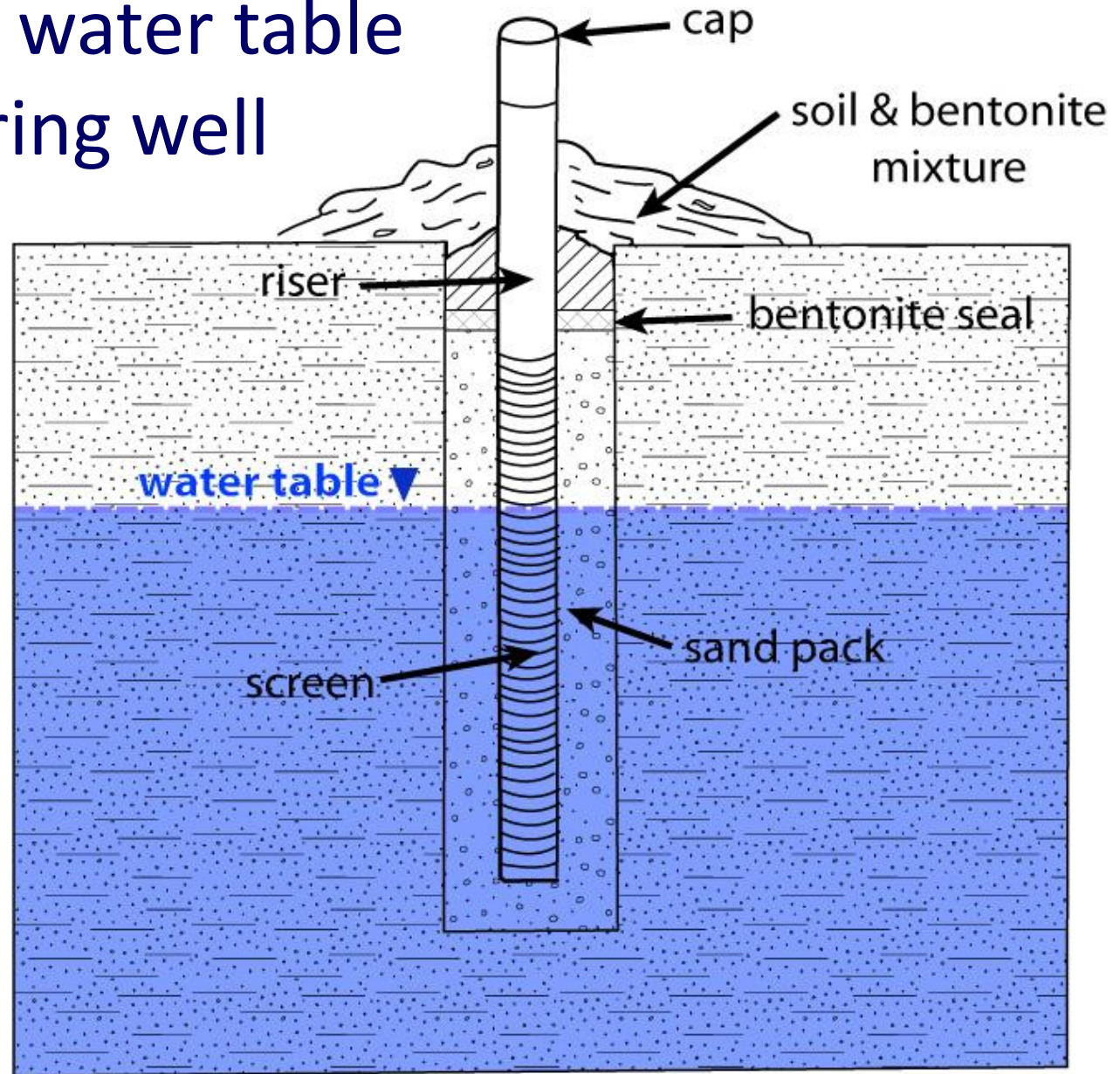
Borehole

Boring

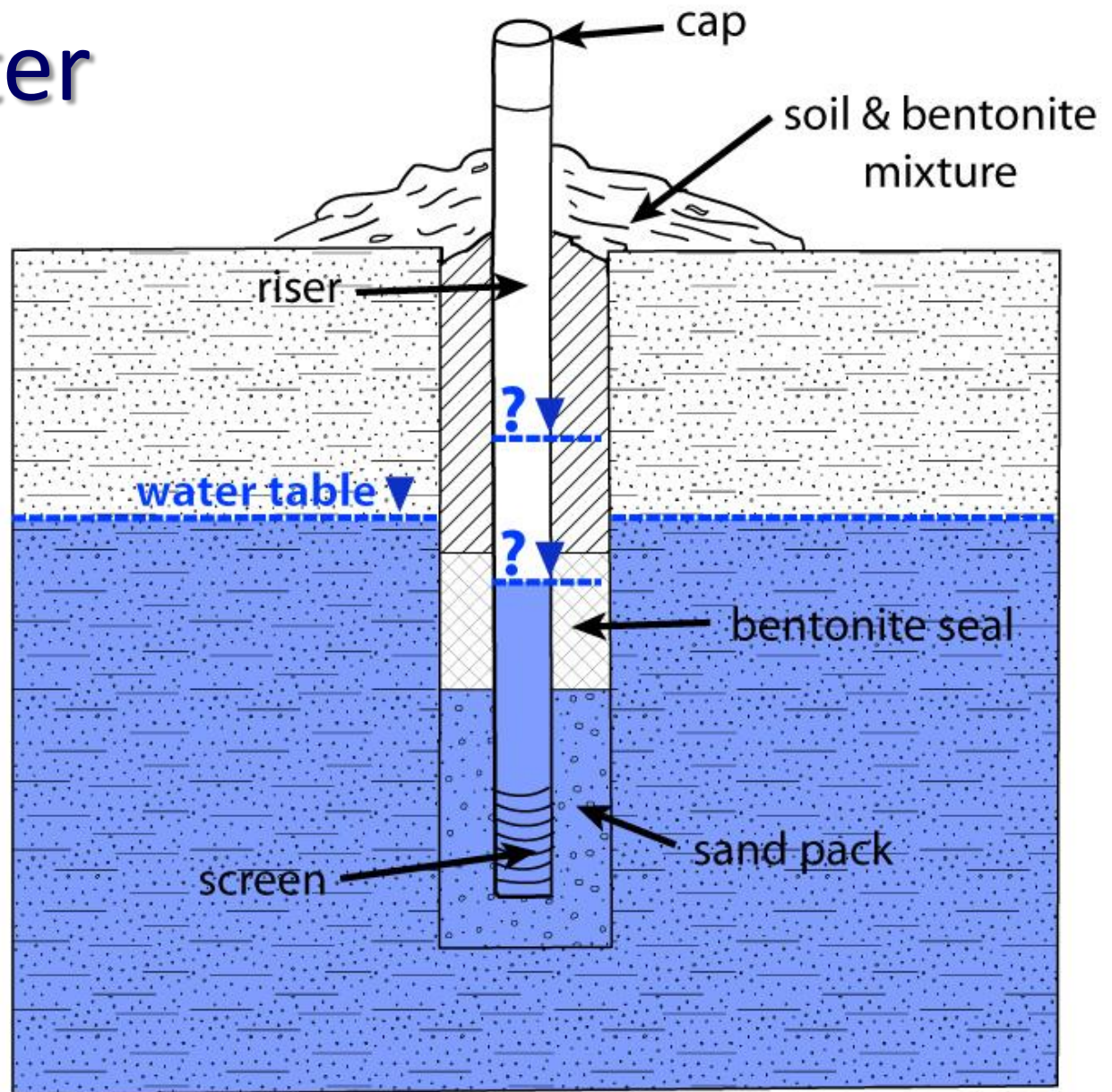


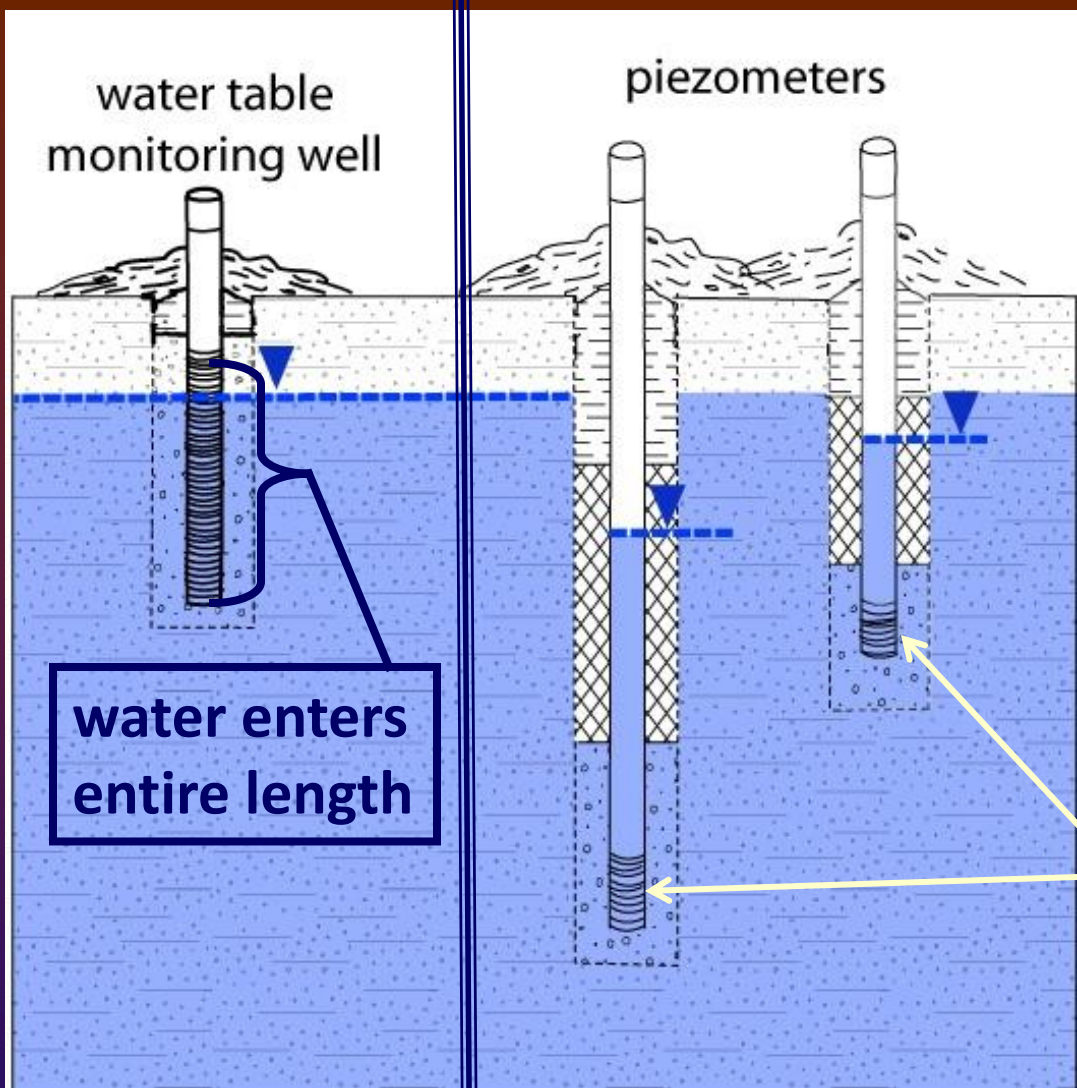
Environmental
Borehole

Shallow water table monitoring well



Piezometer





Piezometers:

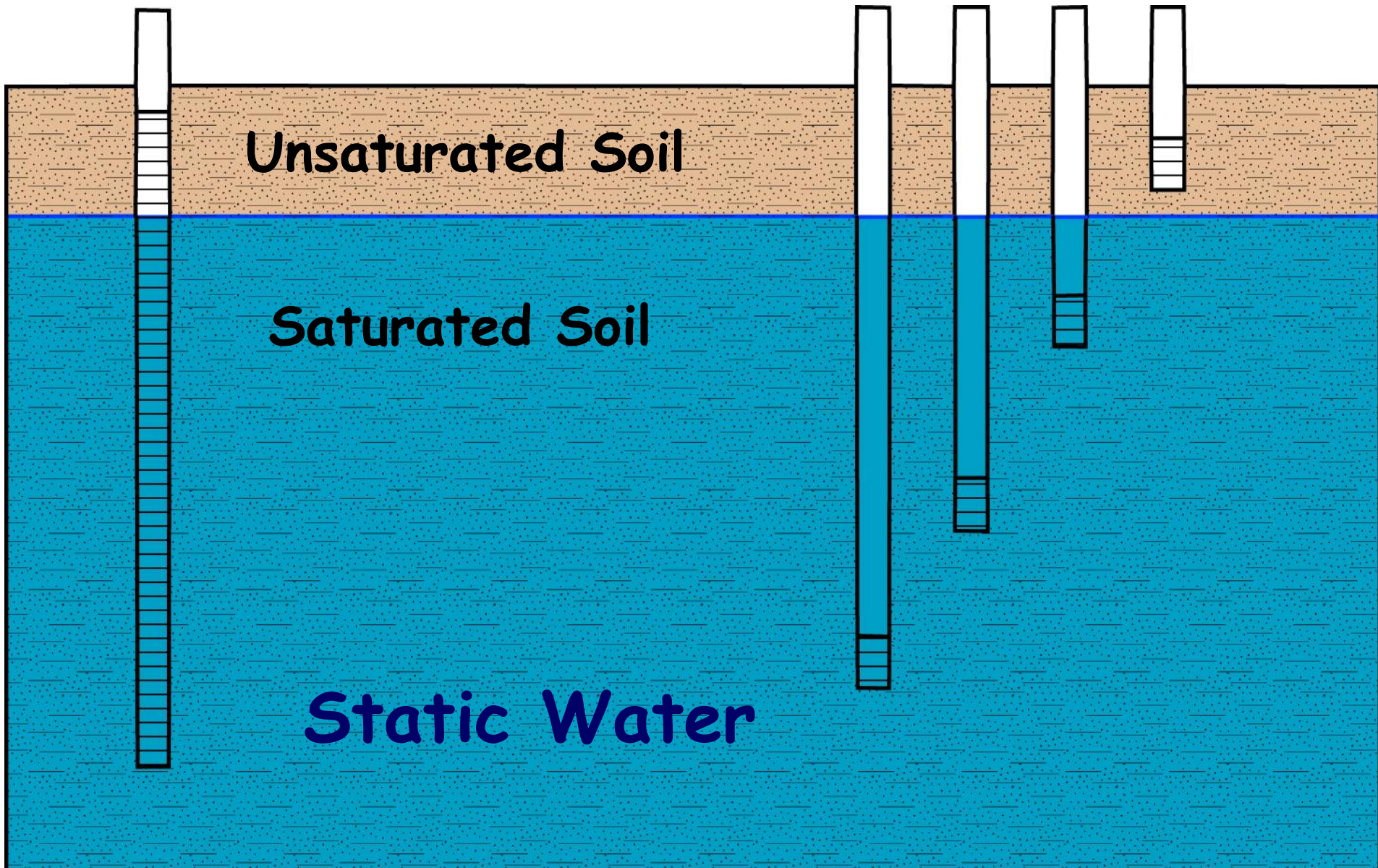
- do not (necessarily) measure saturation levels
- monitor head (pressure) differences
- water movement

water enters ends only

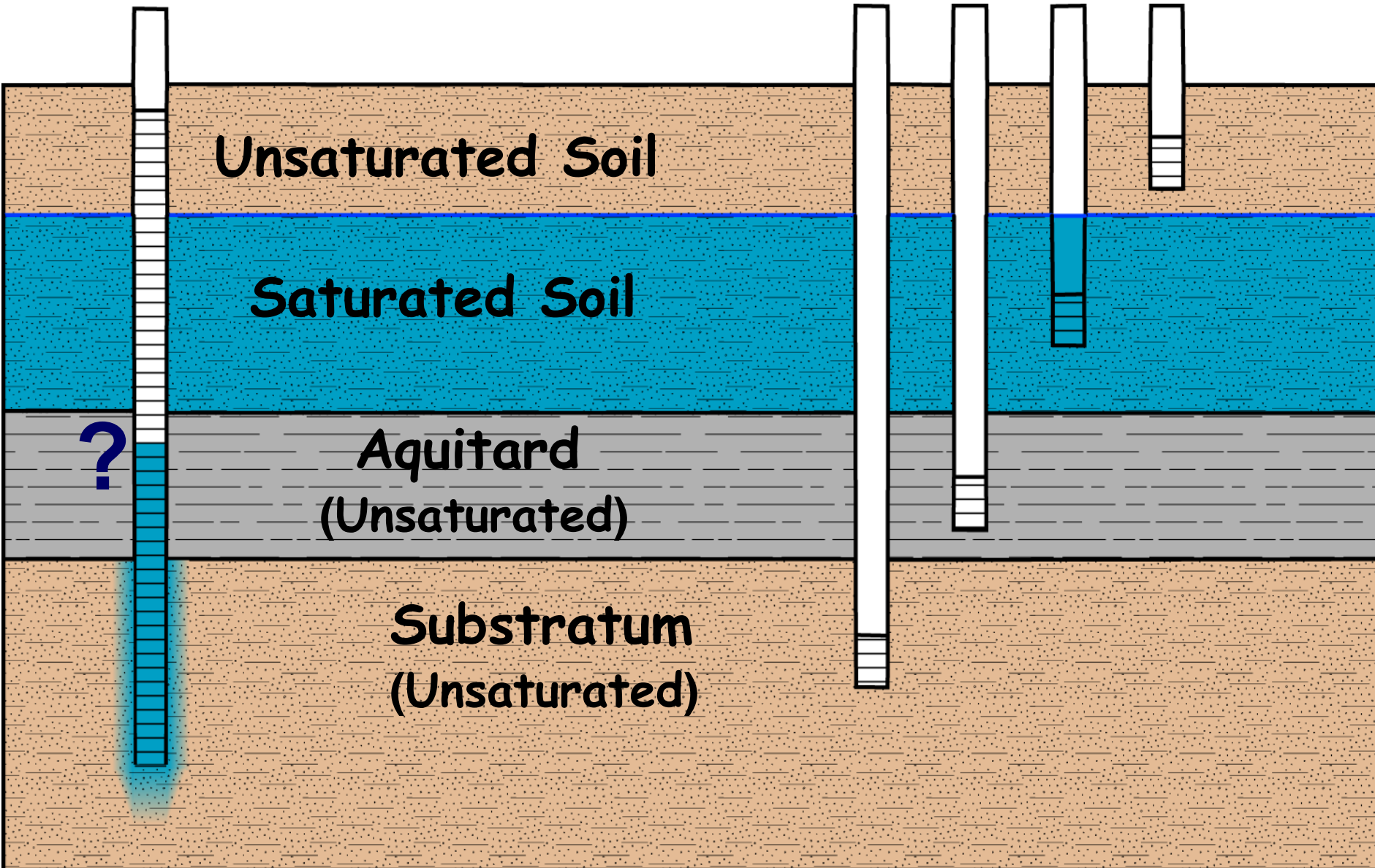
Water table monitoring wells:

- measure saturation

Well & Piezometer Comparison

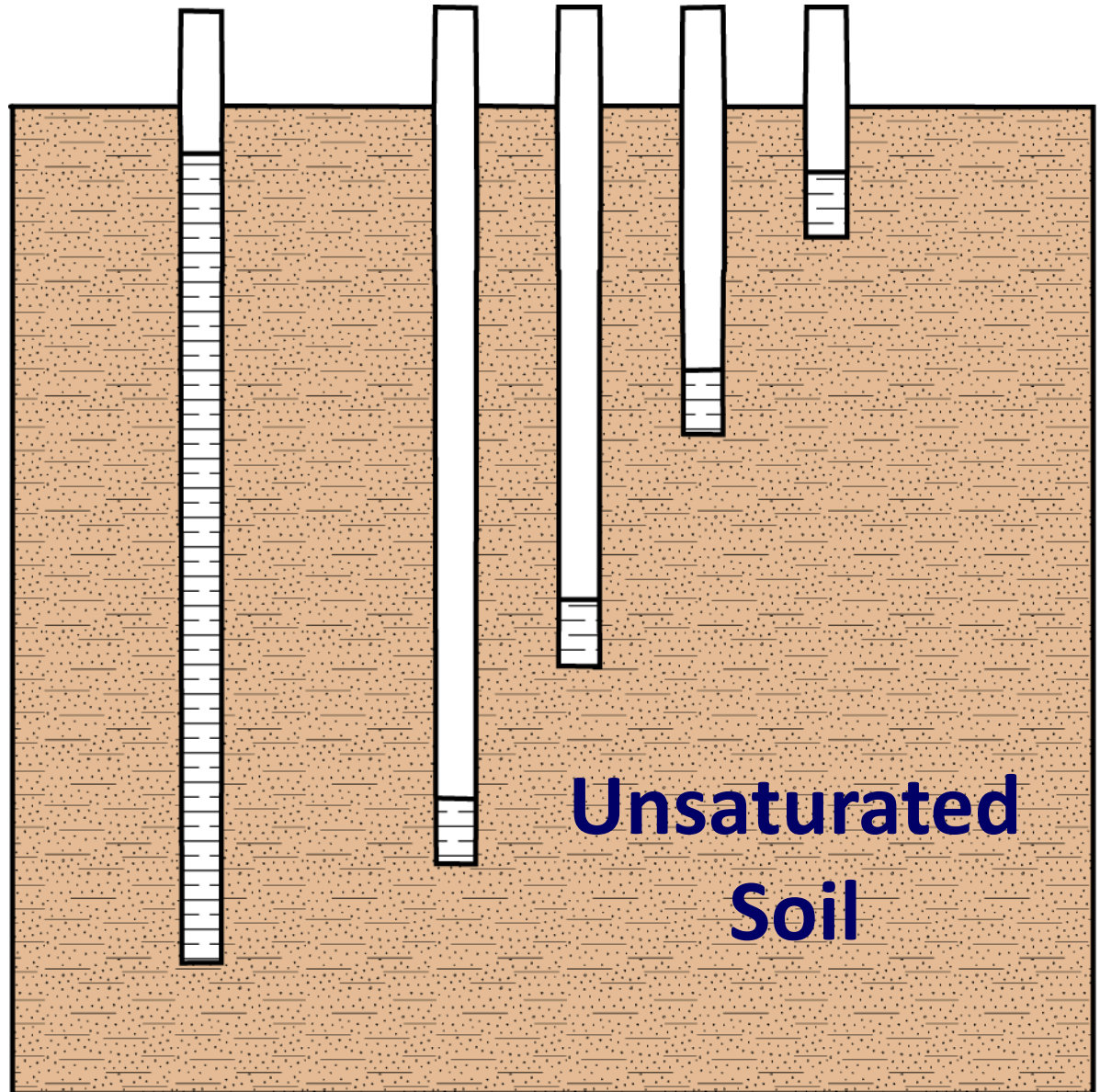


Well & Piezometer Comparison



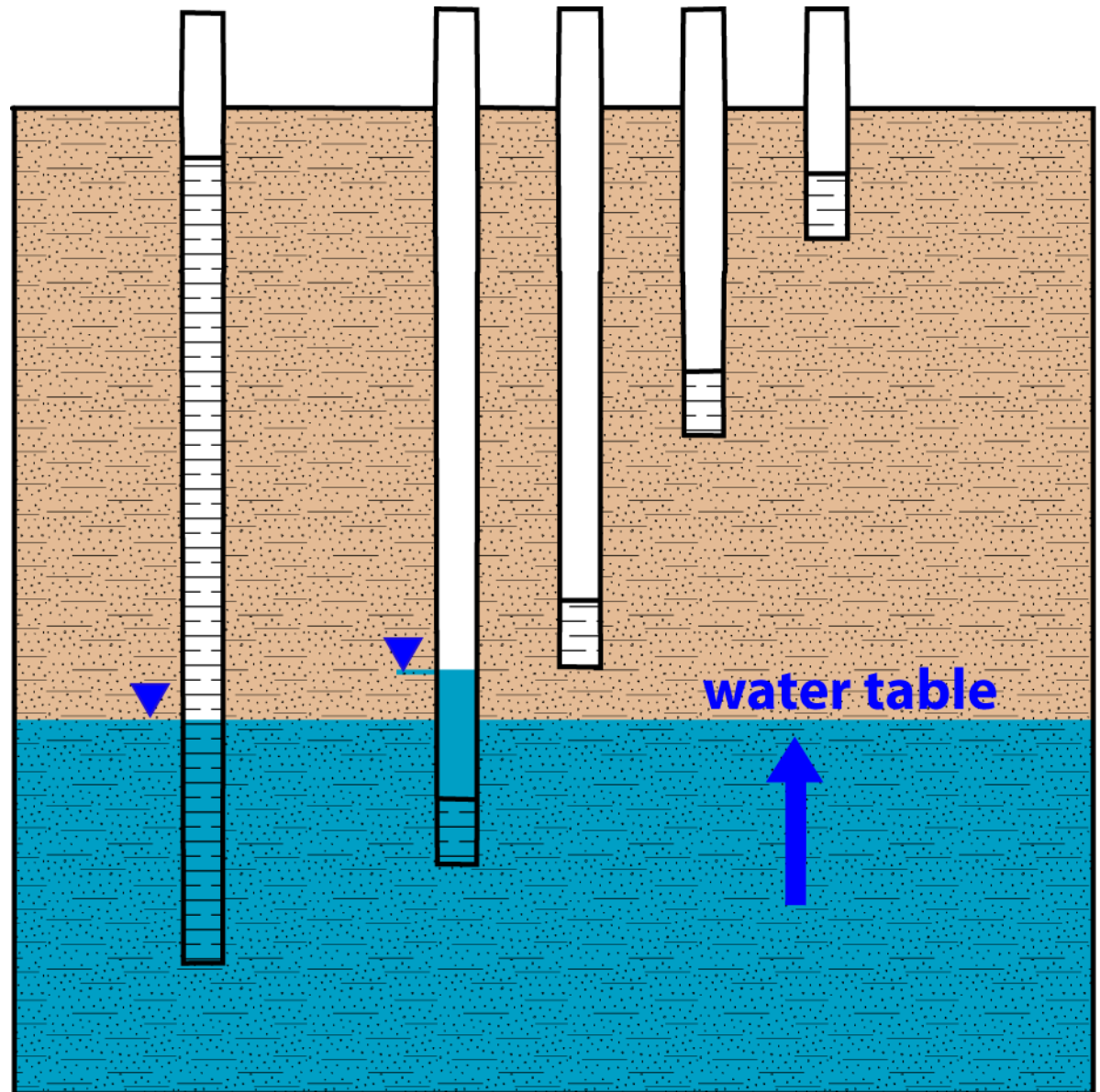
Well

Piezometers



Well

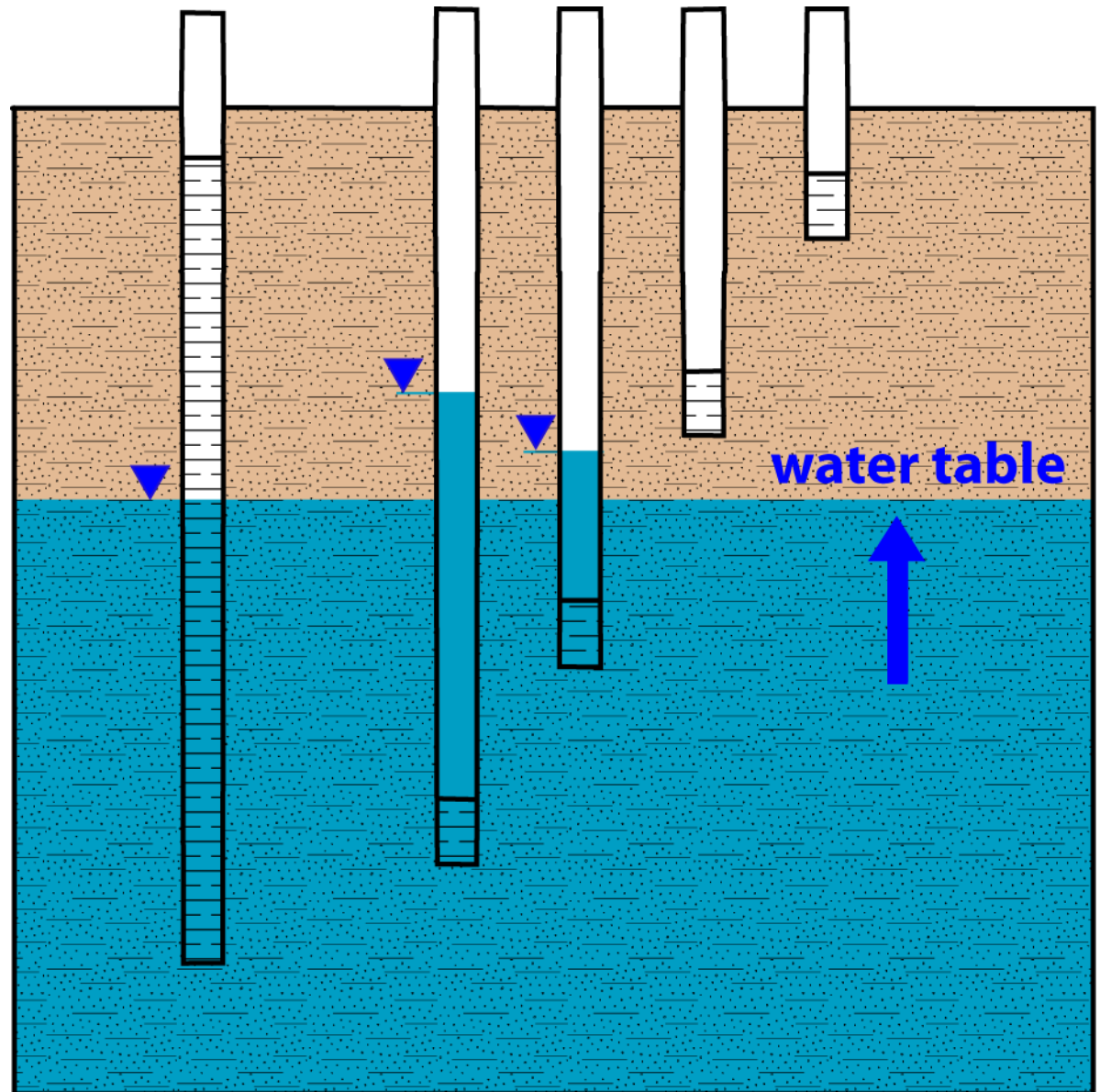
Piezometers



**Rising Water
Level -
Discharge**

Well

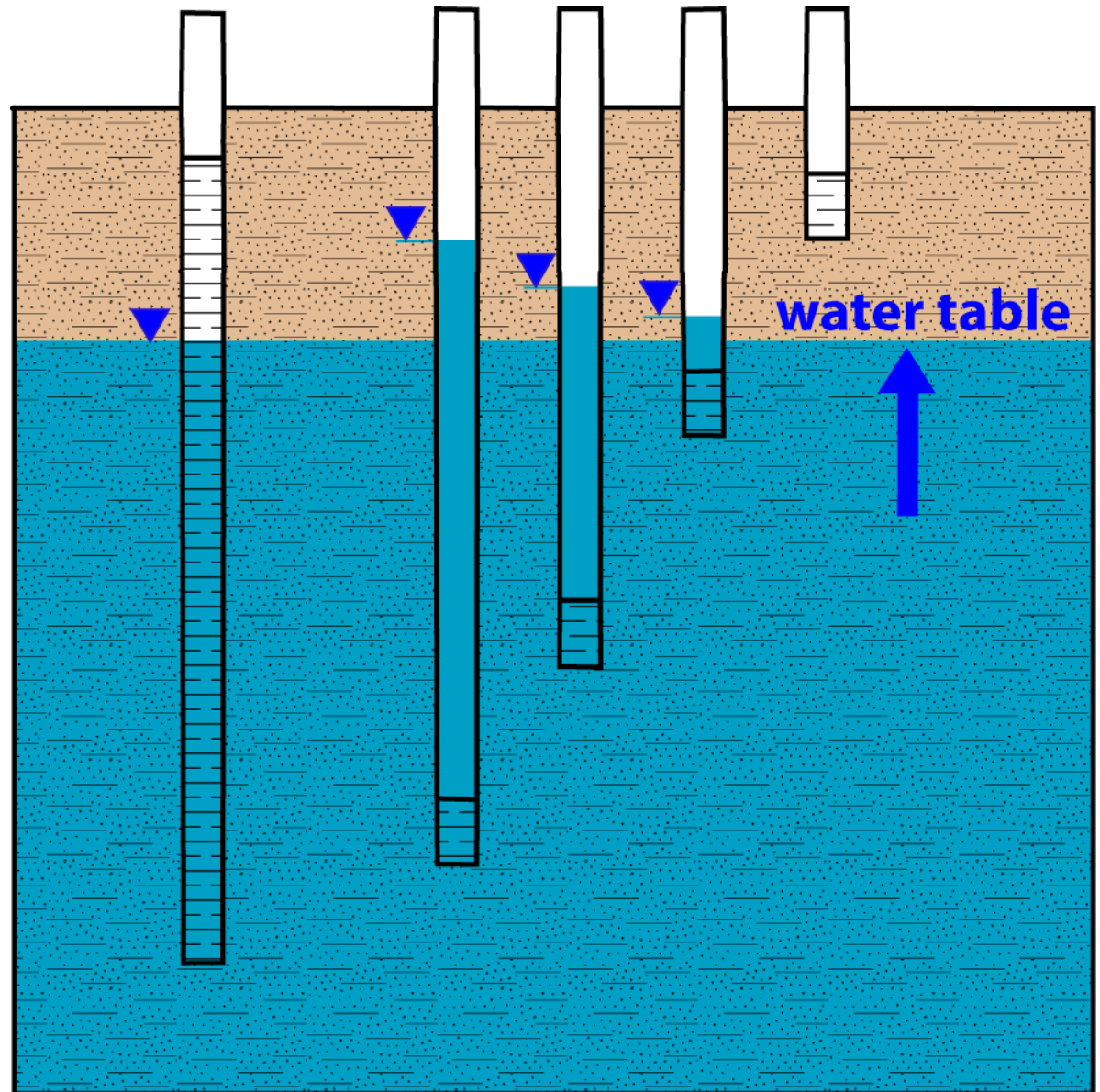
Piezometers



**Rising Water
Level -
Discharge**

Well

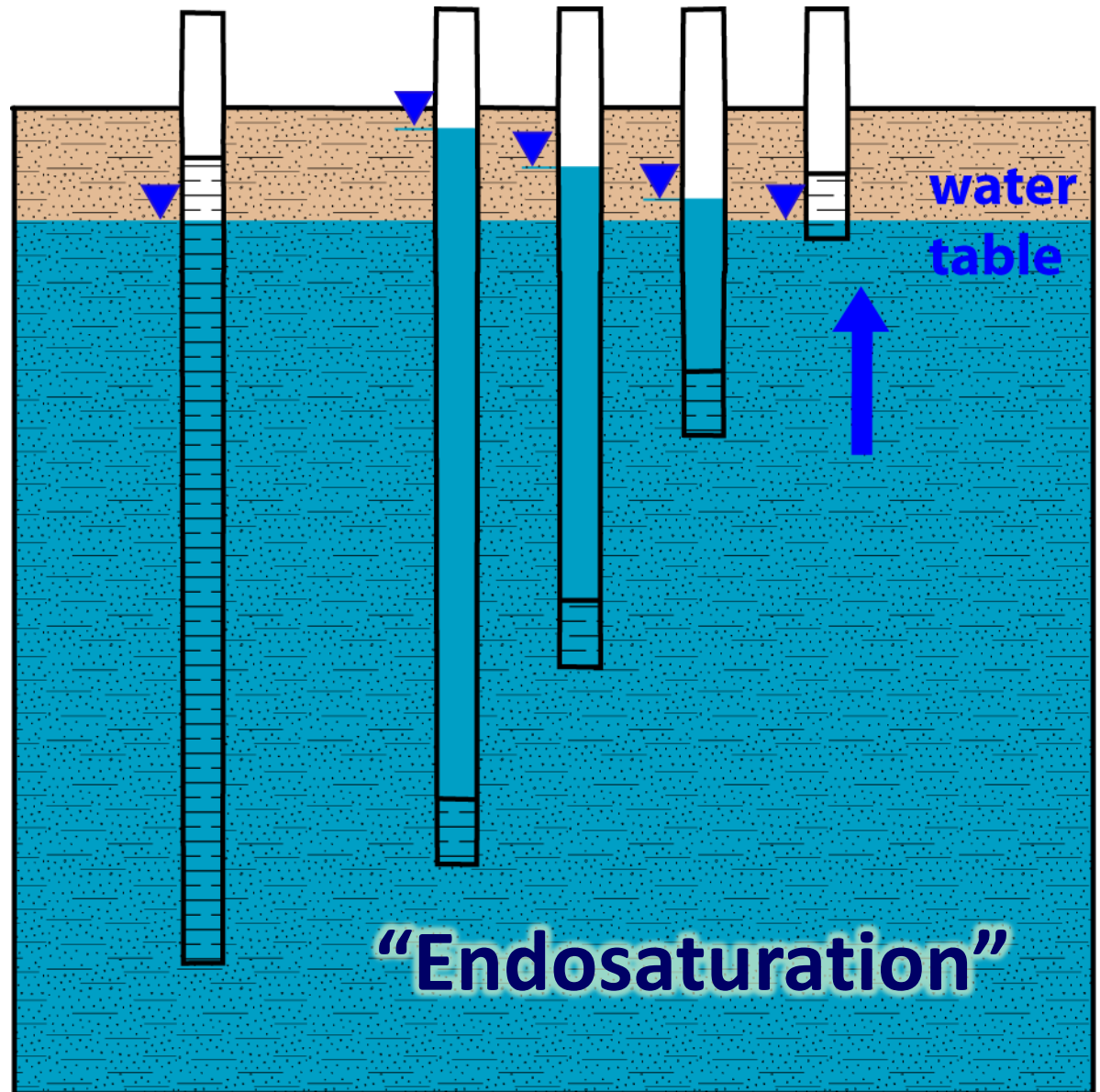
Piezometers



**Rising Water
Level -
Discharge**

Well

Piezometers

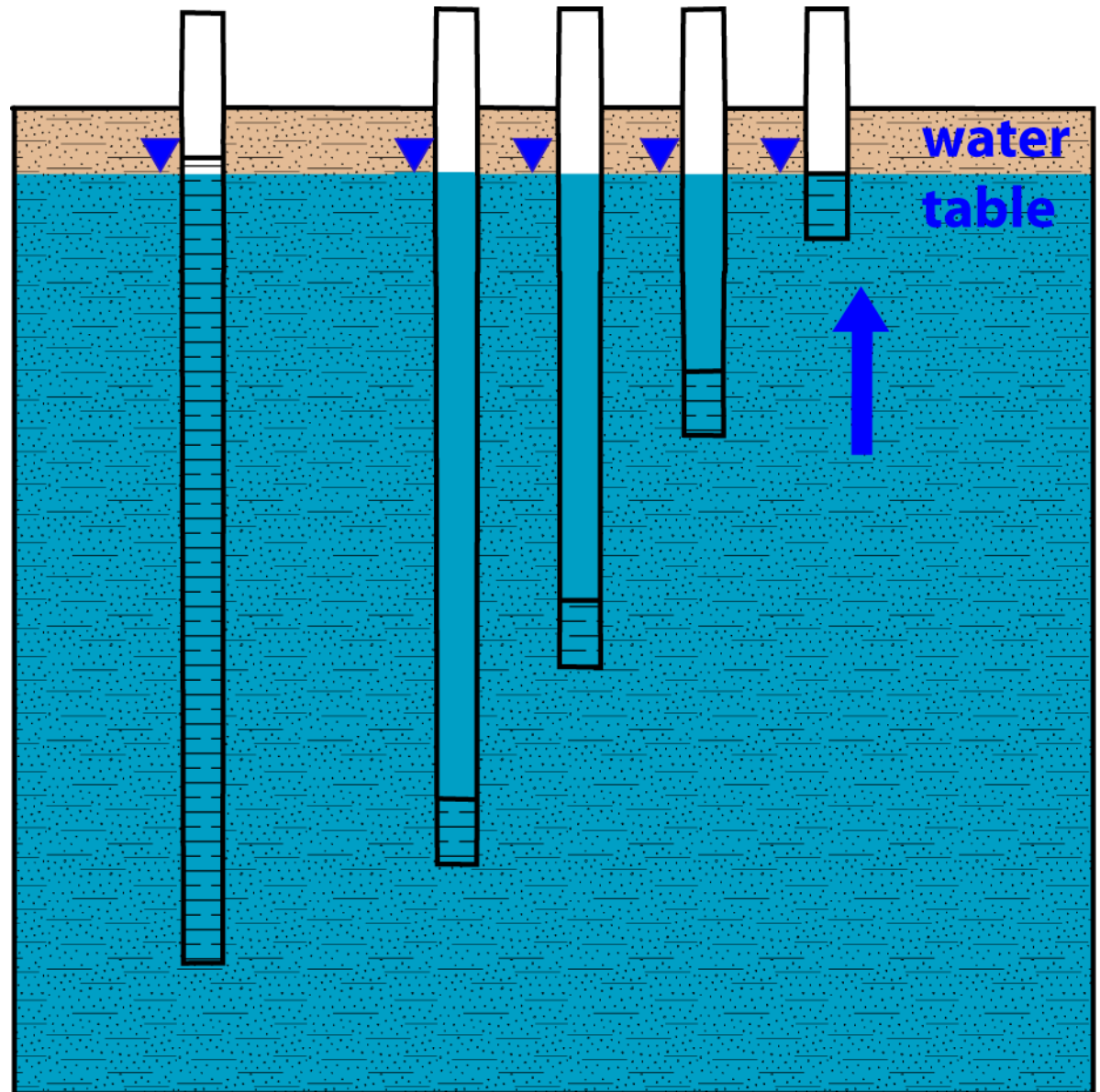


**Rising Water
Level -
Discharge**

“Endosaturation”

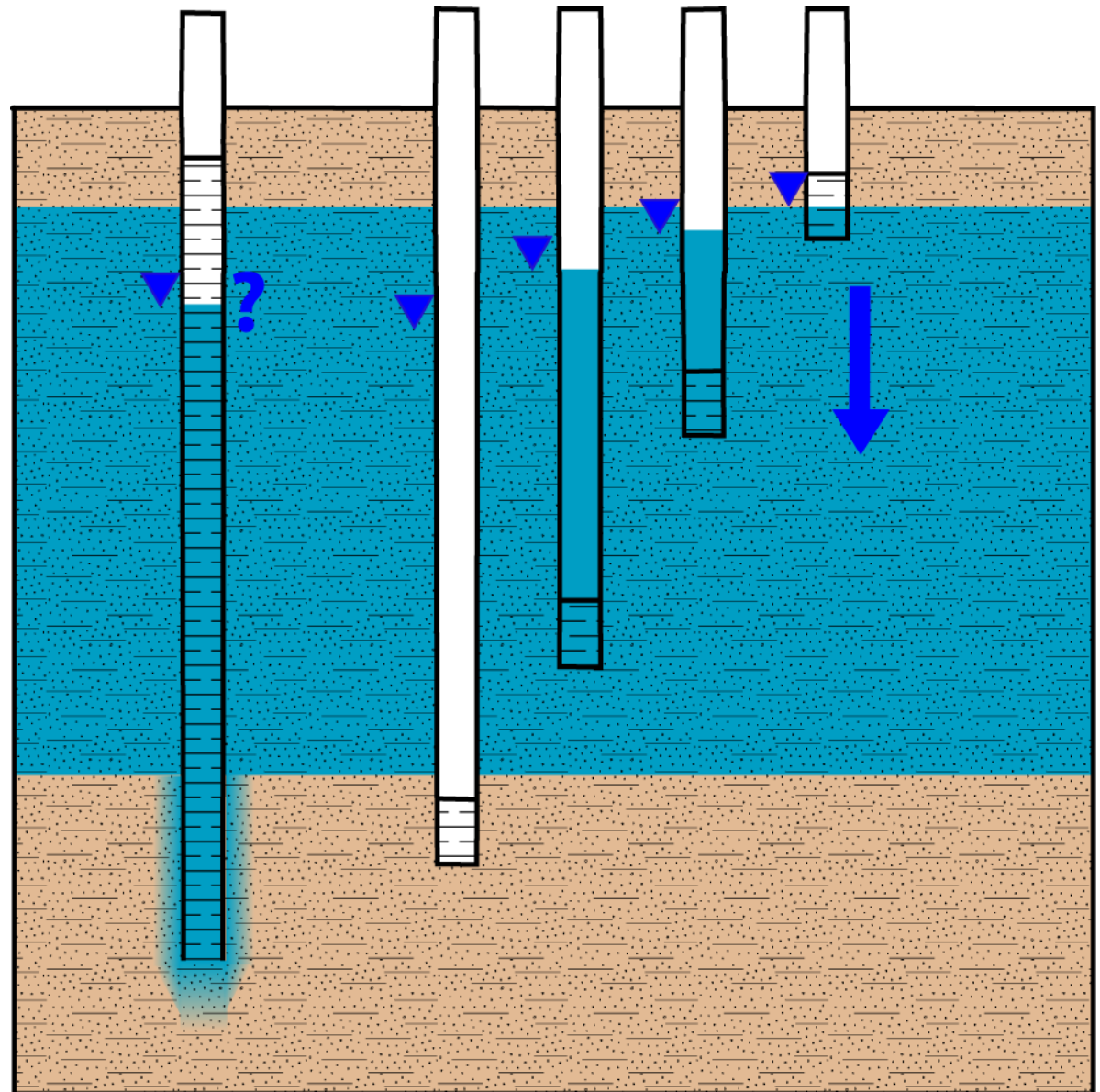
Well Piezometers

**Static Water
Level – no
vertical flow
– stagnant or
flow-through**



Well

Piezometers

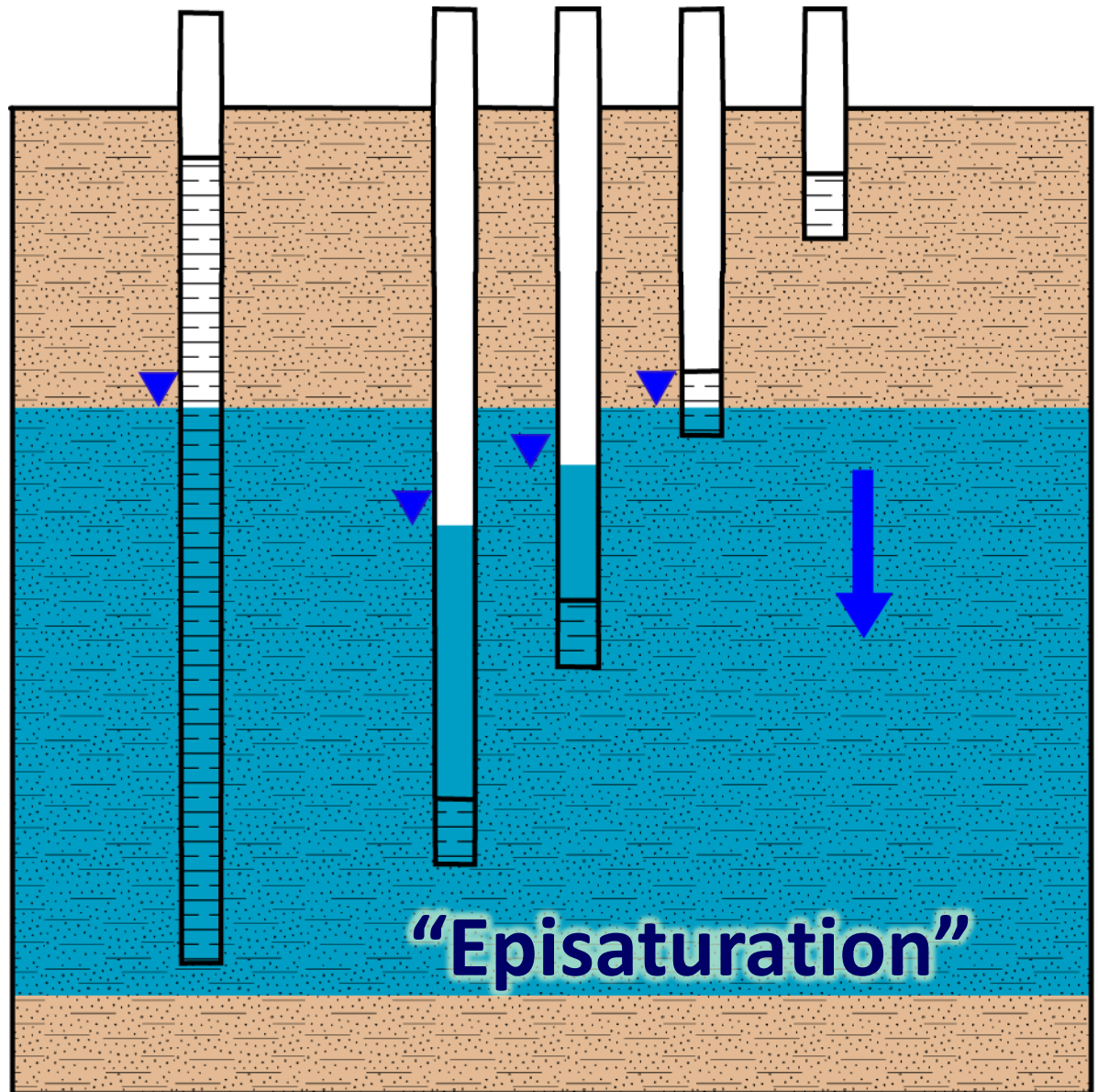


**Falling Water
Level -
Recharge**

Well

Piezometers

**Falling Water
Level -
Recharge**



Wetland hydrology monitoring

- ❖ Planning
- ❖ Documentation
- ❖ Maintenance

Hydrologic Monitoring

Where to Monitor?

Hydrologic Monitoring

Monitoring locations should:

- ❖ Answer the question(s) being asked
- ❖ Use appropriate equipment
- ❖ Represent the site/area

Wetlands Regulatory Assistance Program

ERDC TN-WRAP-06-2
January 2006



Water Table Monitoring Project Design

by Chris V. Noble

Planning: How many locations?

- ❖ objectives of the study
- ❖ wetland size
- ❖ site complexity
- ❖ soil type(s)
- ❖ vegetative communities
- ❖ wetland type
- ❖ topographic relief

Boundary determination

- ❖ Need data from both sides of suspected boundary
- ❖ Transect(s) perpendicular to suspected boundary
- ❖ Only as accurate as the distance between the wells.

Hydrologic Monitoring - Site



Hydrologic Monitoring

How Deep?



Hydrologic Monitoring – Depths of Measurements

Question: Does the depth and timing of saturation at a location meet the technical criterion for wetland hydrology?

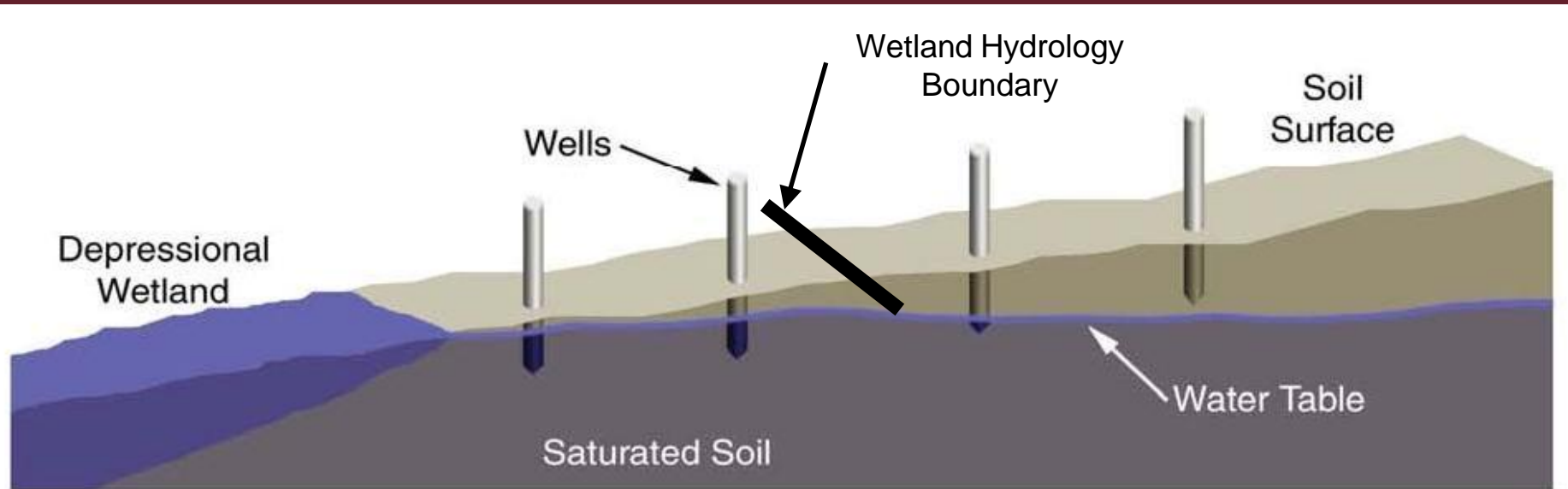
- ❖ 15 inch deep well (technical standard)
- ❖ Additional deeper well? 30-36" deep (or top of perching horizon)?

Additional deeper wells?

- ❖ Provide additional info about the water table.
- ❖ Usually installed deep enough to remain in contact with the water table year-round
- ❖ Data from a deeper well can alert those taking measurements to rising water table.

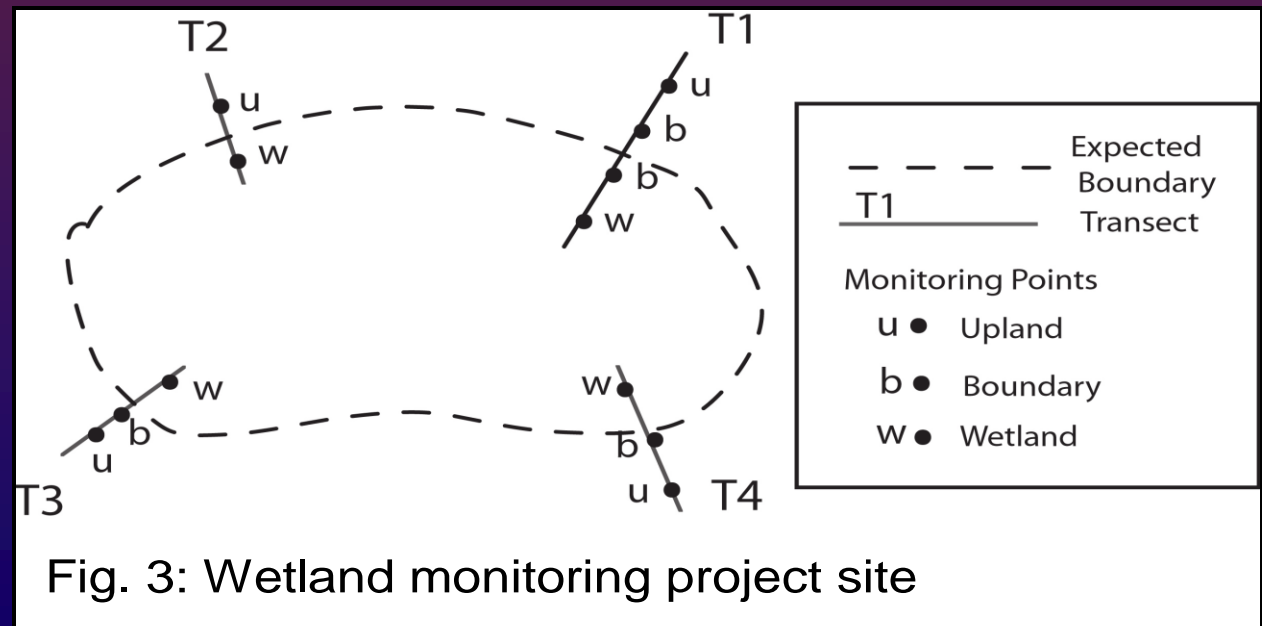
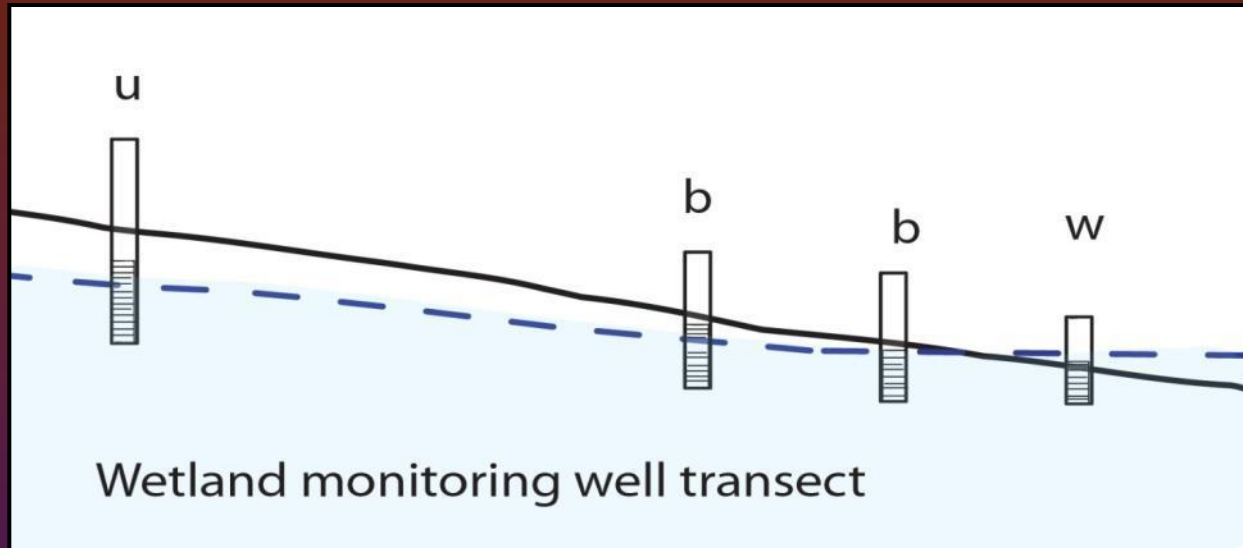
Hydrologic Monitoring - Site

Depressional Wetland – Topographic Gradient

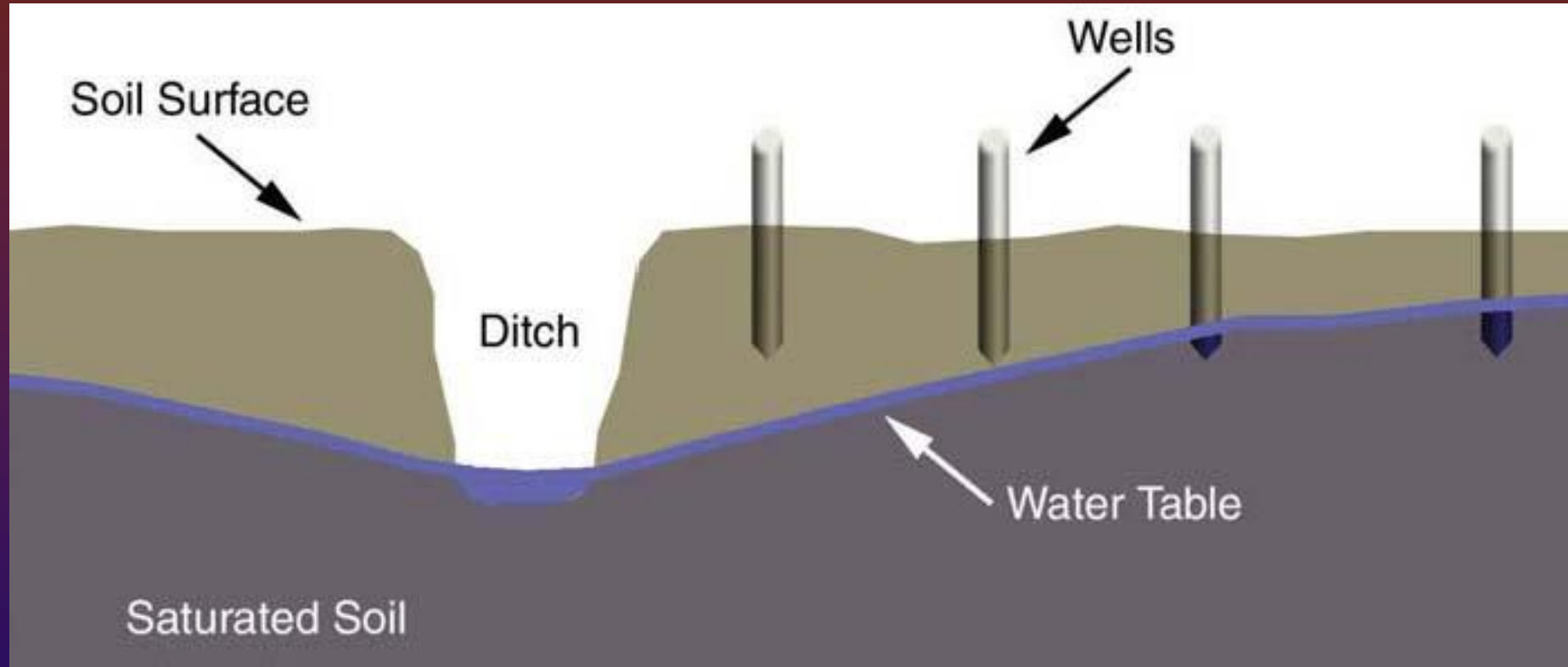


Question: Where is wetland hydrology boundary?

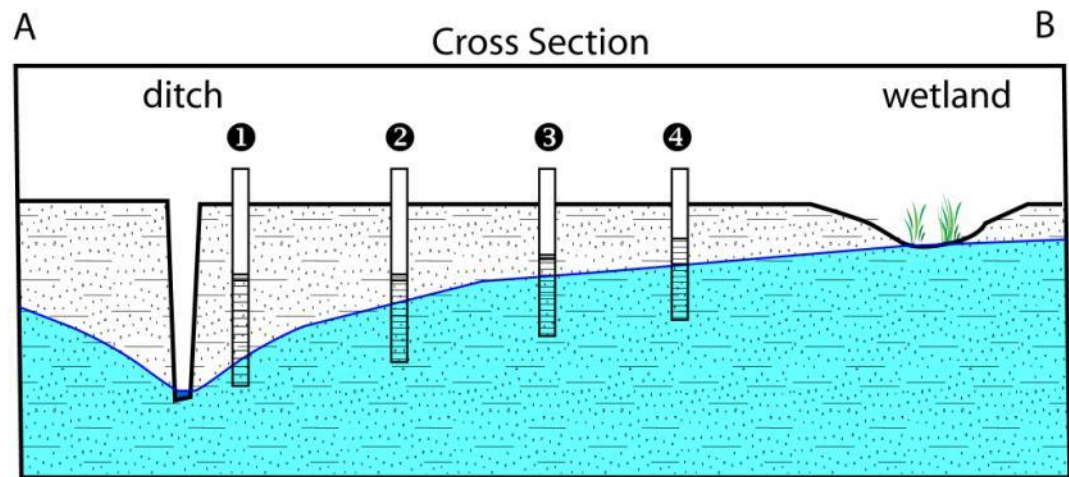
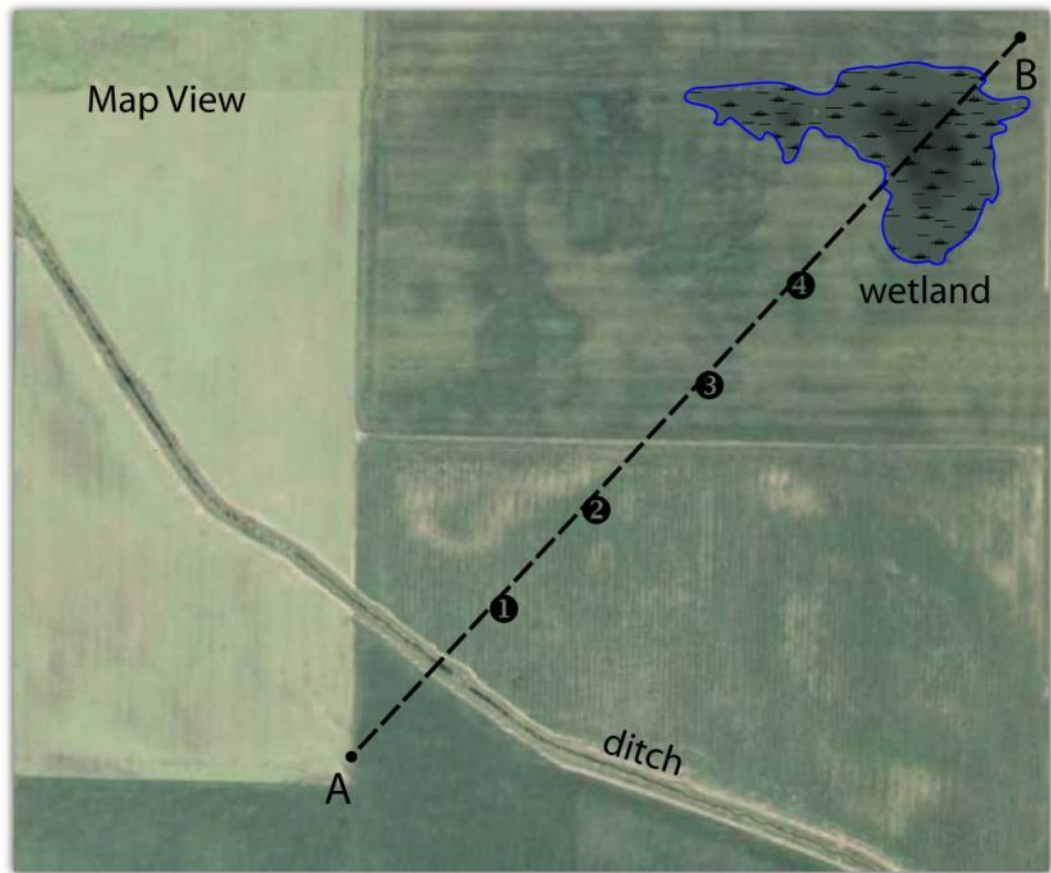
Hydrologic Monitoring - Site



Hydrologic Monitoring – Site Altered Hydrology

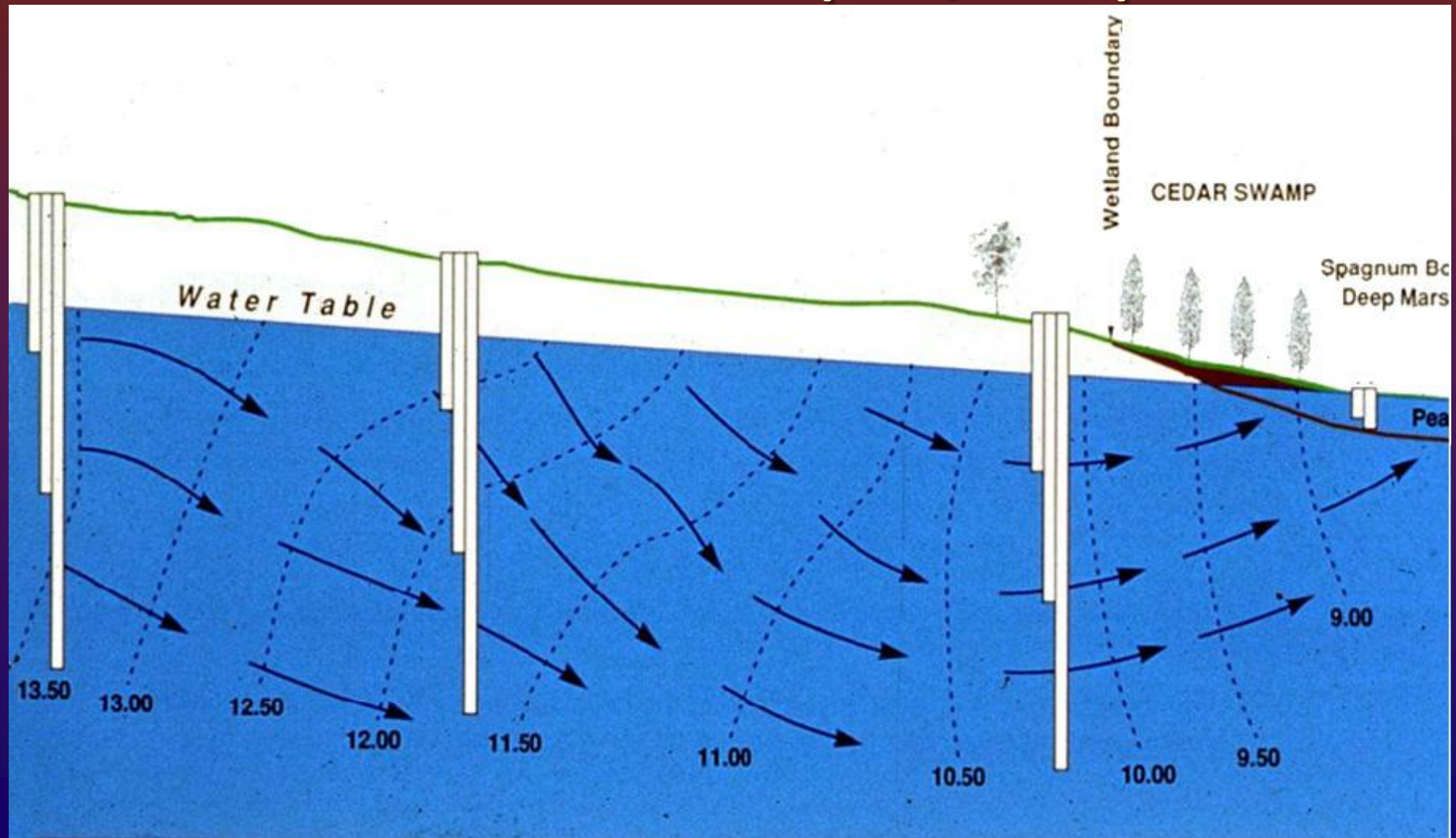


Objective: Determine lateral effect of
drainage ditch.



Hydrologic Monitoring – Site

Ground Water Input/output?



Construction & Installation



Construction & Installation

<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/wrap/pdf/tnwrap00-2.pdf>

Wetlands Regulatory Assistance Program

ERDC TN-WRAP-00-02

July 2000



Installing Monitoring Wells/ Piezometers in Wetlands

PURPOSE: Wetland scientists frequently need quantitative information about shallow ground-water regimes near wetland boundaries and in adjacent uplands. Monitoring wells and piezometers are some of the easiest means of determining depth and movement of water tables within and immediately below the soil profile. Most of the literature on monitoring wells and piezometers, however, deals with installation to depths greater than needed for wetland regulatory purposes.

This revision of the original 1993 technical note reflects increased experience gained over several monitoring years from around the nation in the USDA-NRCS Wet Soils Monitoring project (<http://www.statlab.iastate.edu/soils/nssc/globhome.html#project9>) and other wetland research efforts.¹ Significant changes from the original version include:

- Recommending that 15-in. wells be used to test whether the hydrologic regime meets the criteria for wetland hydrology.
- Listing documentation needs.
- Eliminating well points except with commercially manufactured automatic recording

http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/wrap/pdf/tnwrap05-2.pdf - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit Go To Favorites Help

Back Forward Stop Reload Home Search Favorites Media Print Copy Paste


Address <http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/wrap/pdf/tnwrap05-2.pdf> Go Links

Google ERDC TN-WRAP-05-2 Go 7 blocked Check AutoLink AutoFill

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Wetlands Regulatory Assistance Program

ERDC TN-WRAP-05-2
June 2005



Technical Standard for Water-Table Monitoring of Potential Wetland Sites

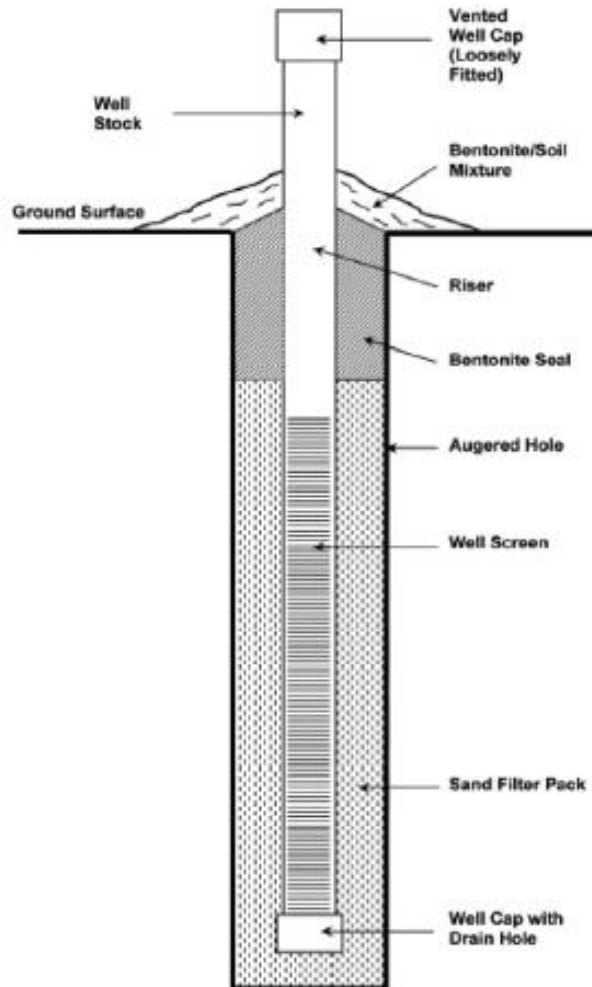
by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

PURPOSE: This technical note describes national standards for the collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of hydrologic data, which may be used to help determine whether wetlands are present on disturbed or problematic sites that may be subject to Clean Water Act regulatory jurisdiction. These standards may be supplemented or superseded by locally or regionally developed standards at the discretion of the appropriate Corps of Engineers District.

BACKGROUND: Wetland determinations in the majority of cases are based on the presence of readily observable field indicators of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology, according to procedures given in the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987) (hereafter called the Corps Manual). These three characteristics

Installing Monitoring Wells in Soils

Version 1.0
August 2008

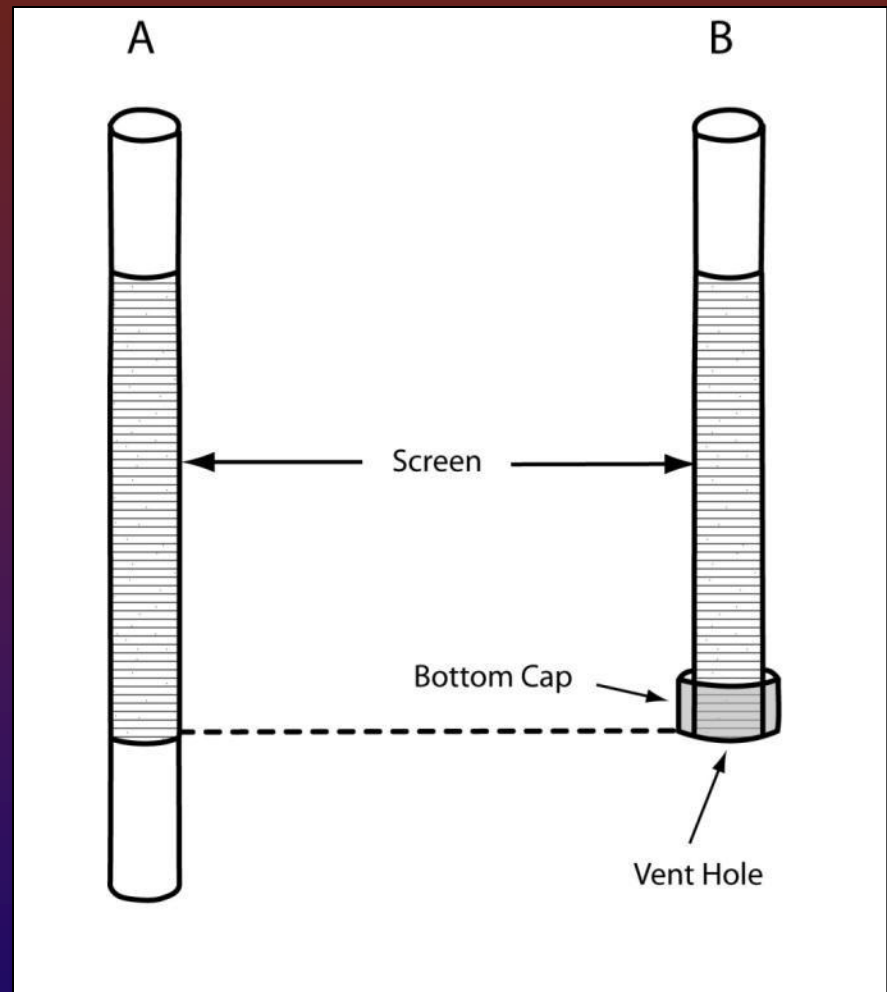


<http://soils.usda.gov/technical/>

USDA – NRCS
National Soil Survey Center
Lincoln, Nebraska

Construction

- ❖ 1-2" diameter PVC pipe
- ❖ Commercial well screen
 - ❖ 0.01 inch wide screen
 - ❖ 20-40 clean sand





I like 1 ¼
inch PVC
well screen

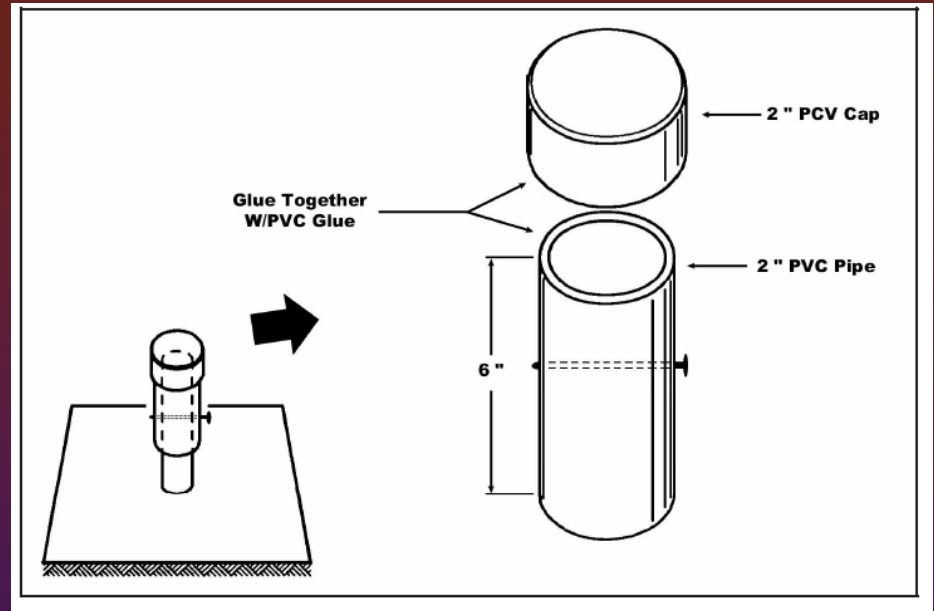
Filter Fabric

Filter Socks

- Not necessary with sand pack
- Used in mucky or peat soil or where permanently saturated



Construction



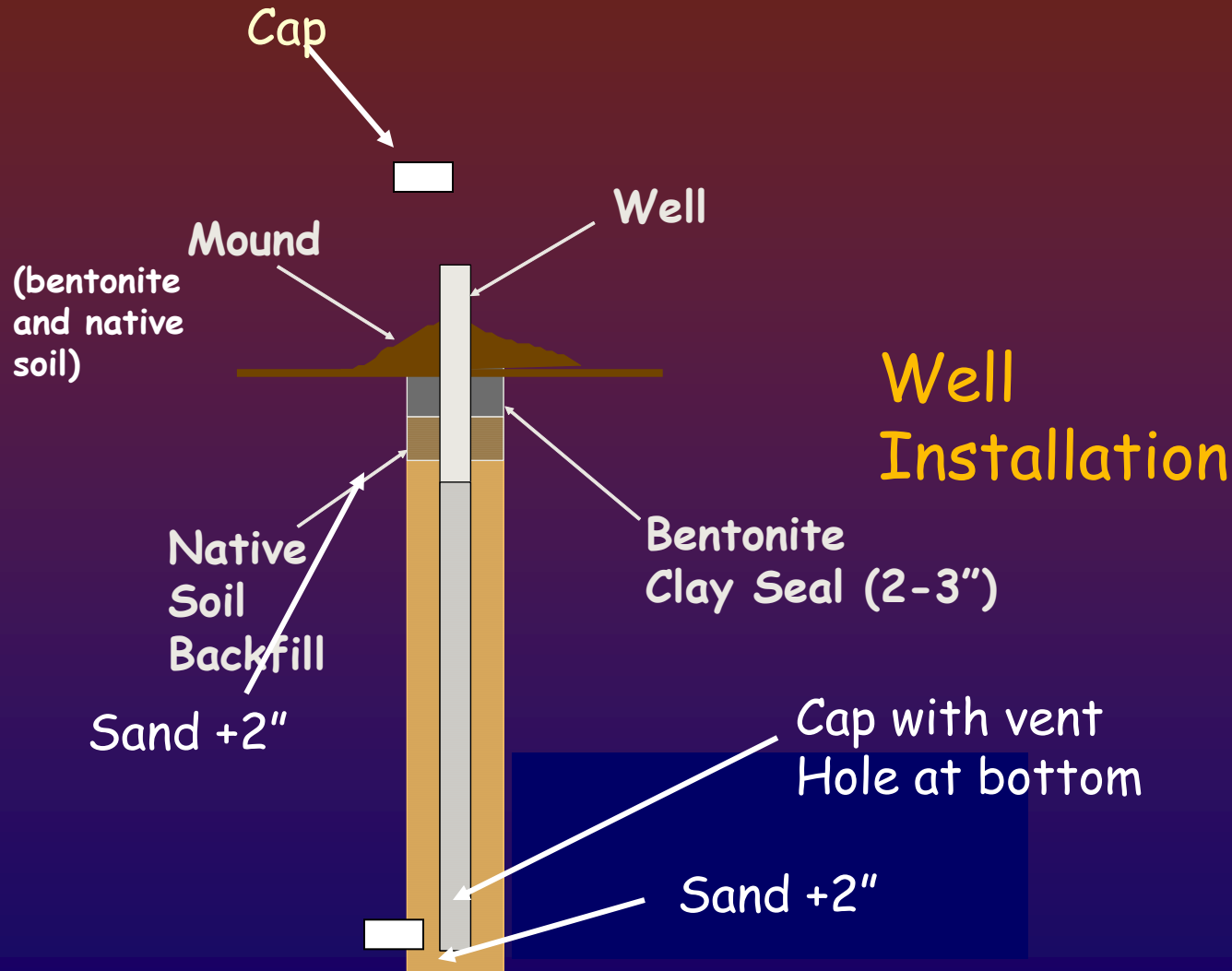
Riser

- Solid 1st 6" below ground surface
- Extend 12" above ground surface, unless site requires more/less

Well Cap

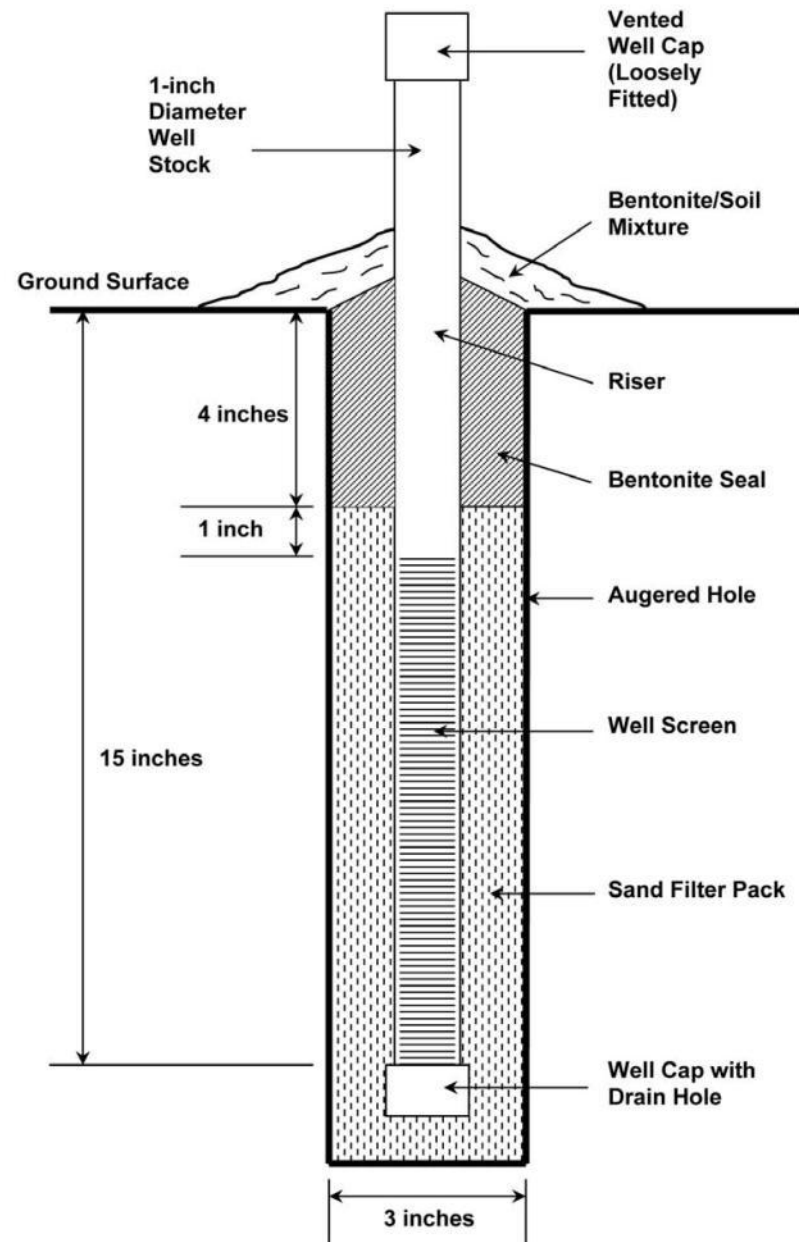
- Prevent rainfall contamination

Installation of a Well



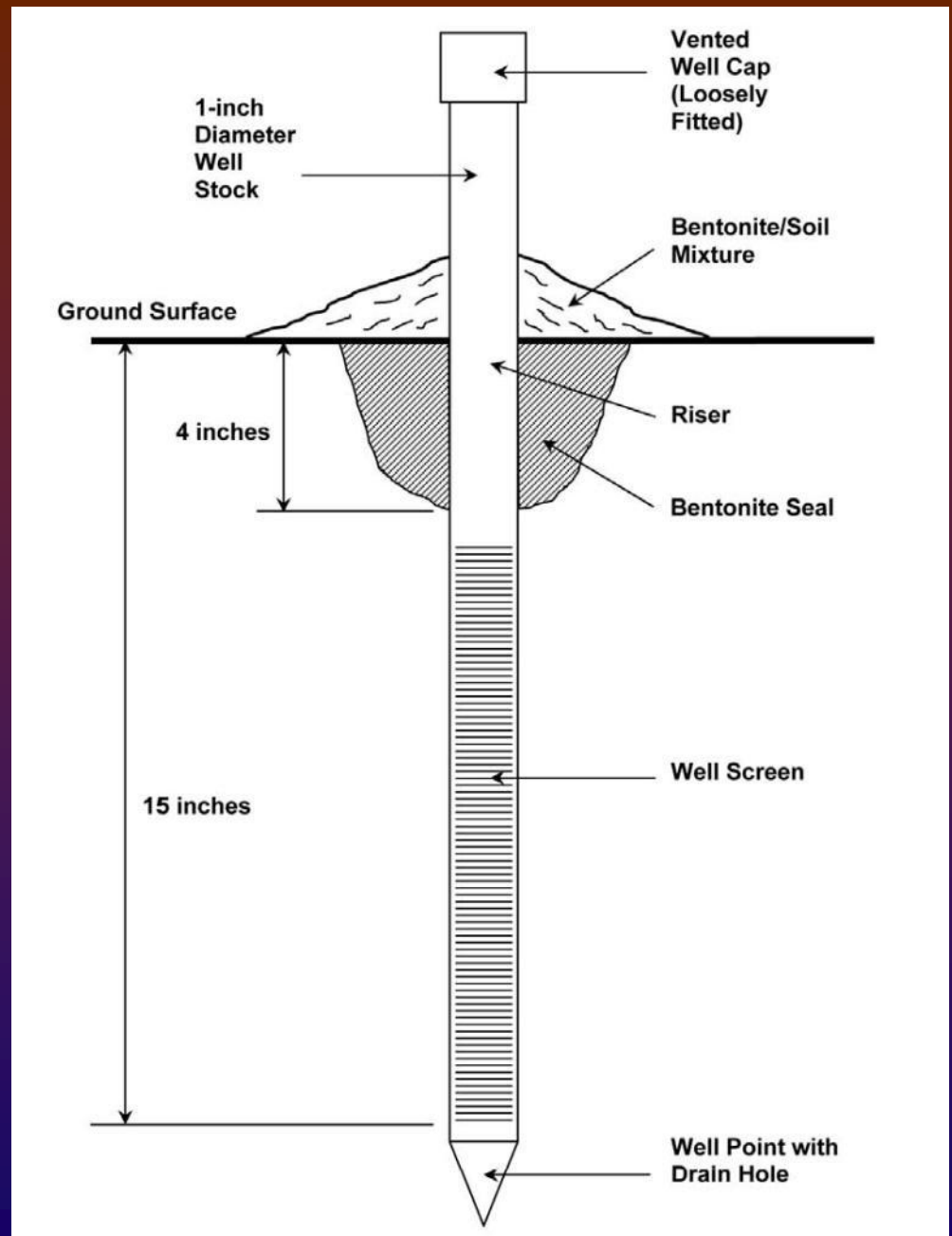
Standard 15-inch monitoring well installed by augering.

From: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Technical Standard for Water-Table Monitoring of Potential Wetland Sites

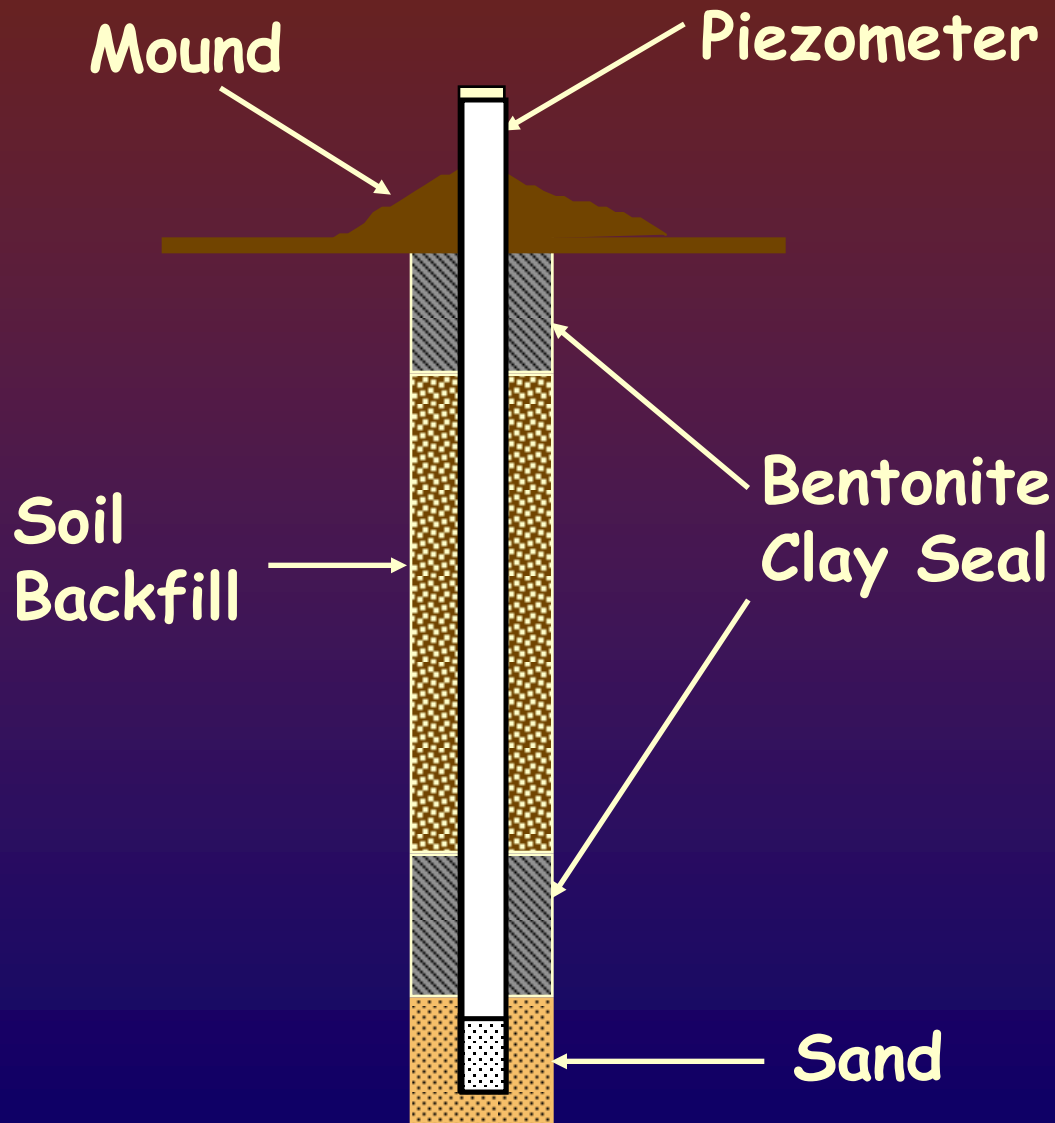


Standard 15-inch monitoring well installed by driving.

From: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Technical Standard for Water-Table Monitoring of Potential Wetland Sites



Installation of a Piezometer



Piezometer
Installation

Installation Equipment

- ❖ Auger with extensions
- ❖ Coloring book/water – soil description
- ❖ Well/piezometers – pre-made lengths or supplies to build in field
- ❖ Tamper
- ❖ Scarifier
- ❖ Bentonite
- ❖ Sand
- ❖ Tape measure
- ❖ Perm. markers to label equipment
- ❖ Installation data sheet(s)



Dutch Auger at the ready....



Logging the boring...



Checking depth...



Scarify...



Adding
Sand...



Here
Comes
the
Sand...

Tamping



Adding
Bentonite Seal...



Almost
Done



Construction - Protection

Protection Needed?

Depends on:

- Potential for vandalism
- Animals
- Planned burning

Possibilities

- Steel riser
- Protection post
- Outer casing, cover, shelter
- Locking well cap



Equipment Maintenance

Check for clogging

- ❖ Fine textures
- ❖ Pump and wait for equilibrium (saturated)
- ❖ Add water and time to drain (unsaturated)

Verify instrument elevations

- ❖ Freeze/thaw, wet/dry cycles move equipment
- ❖ Annual spring tradition

Vandalism protection

- ❖ Hide instruments, armor
- ❖ ID with signs

Documentation

- ❖ Location of wells – site map
- ❖ Well construction details
- ❖ Soil/ geology log

Installation Data Sheet

Project Name Alpha Project Date of Installation 9/9/99
 Project Location Beta Place Personnel J Doe
 Well Identification Code A-15 J Bloe
 Attach map of project, showing well locations and significant topographic and hydrologic features.
 As appropriate, attach map of well site, showing locations and ground elevations of all instruments and microtopographic features of significance, with respect to reference datum.

Type of Instrument

Source of instrument / well stock Acme Well Company
 Material of well stock Schedule 40 PVC Diameter of pipe 1 inch
 Slot size 0.010 inch Slot spacing 0.5

inch

Kind of well cap homemade PVC w/vent Kind of end plug 1" plug, vented

Nature of Installation Materials

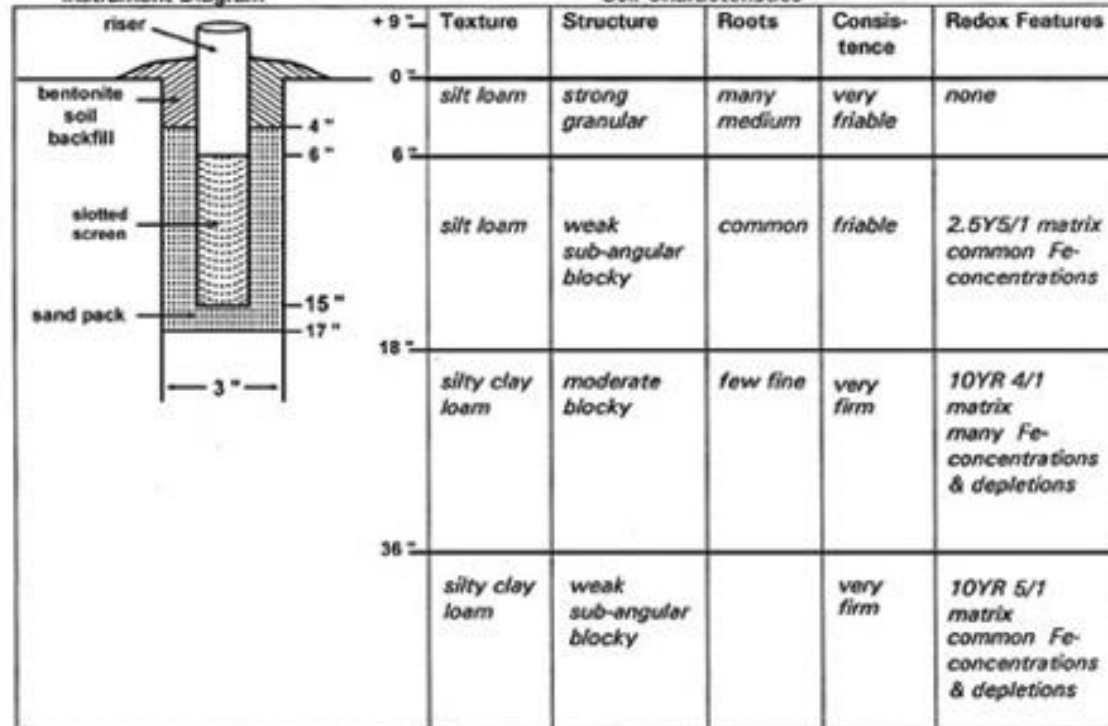
Nature of packing sand 20-40 silica Kind of bentonite chips
 Nature of backfill bentonite/soil mix Depth of backfill 6 in to ground surface

Was bentonite installed below groundwater depth at installation? NA

Was water added to bentonite for expansion? NA

Method of measuring water levels in instrument steel tape and soluble marker
 How was instrument checked for clogging after installation? Water poured down well and drainage monitored. No water standing in well after 20 minutes.

Instrument Diagram



**Documentation
of well
installation
details and soil
characteristics
is essential for
valid
interpretation
of monitoring
well data!**

Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
Hanson Wetland Bank- Soil Boring / Well Construction

A1

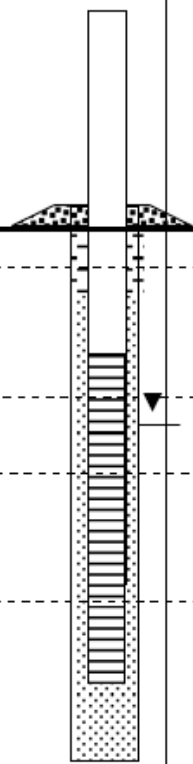

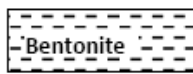
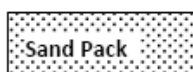
Date: 7/19/2010 **County:** Murray **Site ID:** enter site ID

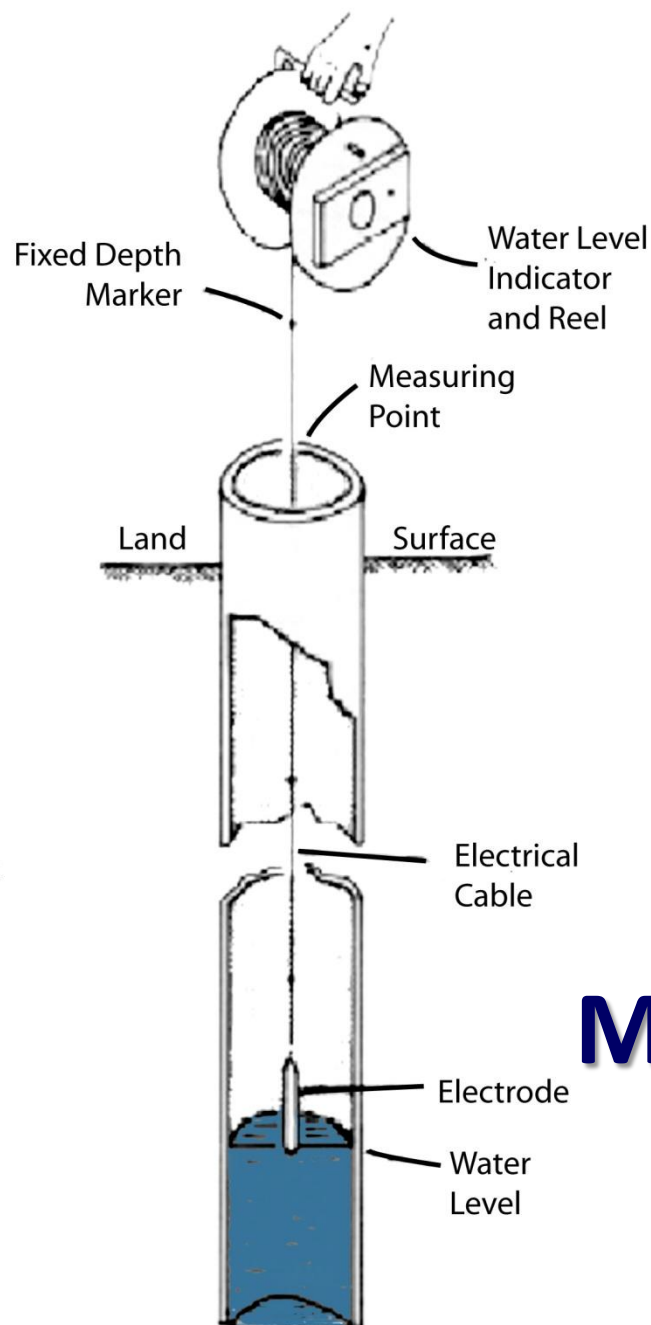
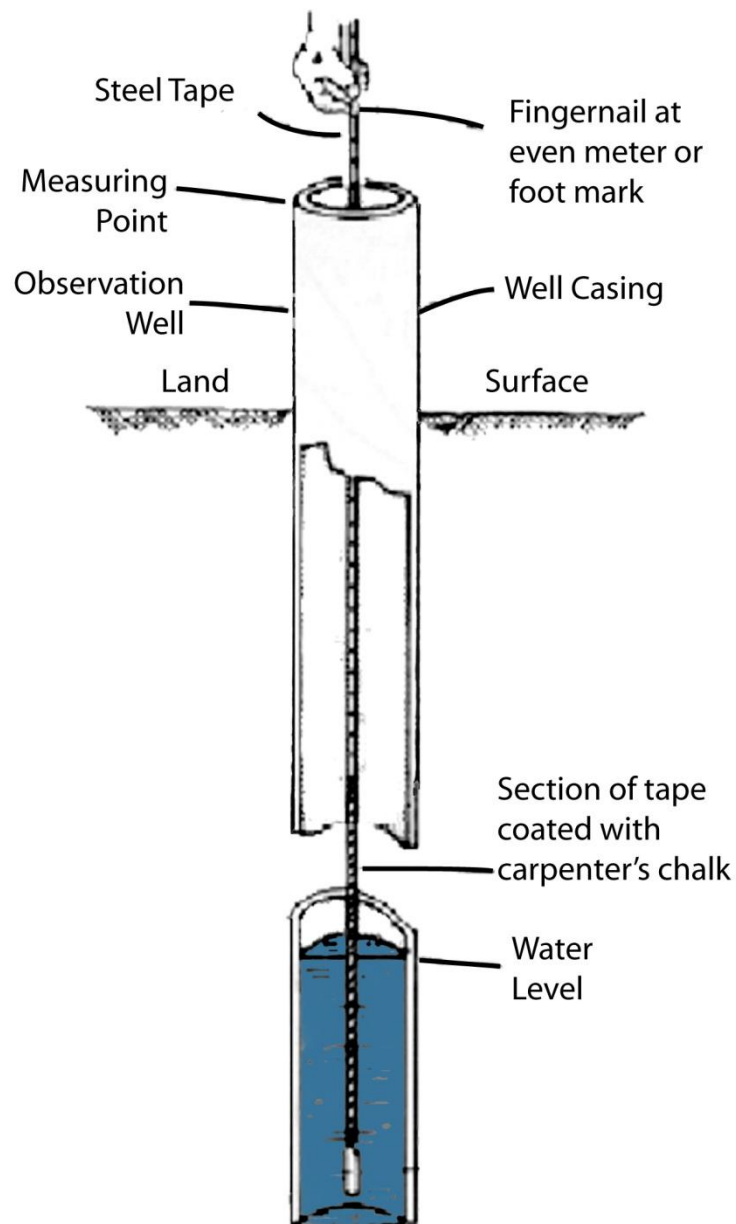
Personnel: E Mohring, M Lennon, K Radel **Equipment/ Method:** dutch auger

Landscape Position: footslope **Soil Series:** 86 Canisteo clay loam **Parent Material:** till

Water depth during installation: 1.3 ft **Pack material:** sand **Backfill material:** native clay

Well	Diam (in)	Screen type	Slot (in)	screen length (ft)	screen interval (ft)	end plug type	riser	riser length (ft)	total (ft)	Stick -up (ft.)	depth (ft)	pack interval	seals	surface completion
A1	1 1/4"	sch 40 pvc wrapped	.010	2.3	.75 - 3.05	capvented	sch 40 PVC	3.0	5.3	2.25	3.05	.5 - 3.5	bentonite 0-5 ft bent/sand/clay mound	oversize PVC cap

Depth (ft)	Texture, etc.	Color		Wells	Remarks
		Matrix	Redox		
0--	texture wet	H V C	% H V C size prom		  
0--	fibric peat, moist	10YR 4/2			Strong HCl reaction
--	sapric peat, moist to wet	10YR 2/1	5% 2.5YR 5/6		Strong HCl reaction Fe nodules
1--	loam, moist to wet	10YR 3/1	20% 10YR 5/1		Strong HCl reaction
--	loam, wet	10YR 4/1 (60%)	40% 10YR 5/1		Strong HCl reaction many small snail shells
2--	loam, wet	10YR 4/1	15% 10YR 7/1		Strong HCl reaction many small snail shells
3--					
--					
4--	End of boring				

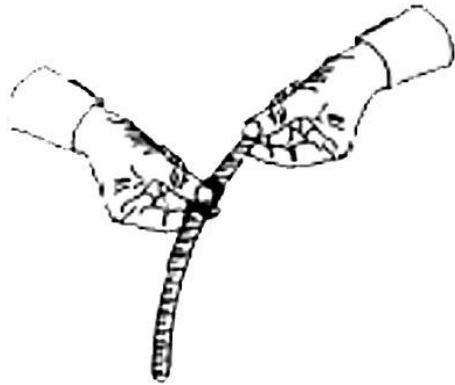


Measuring Water Levels

Steel Tape and Chalk...

Depth to water from measuring point
= "HOLD" number minus "CUT" number.

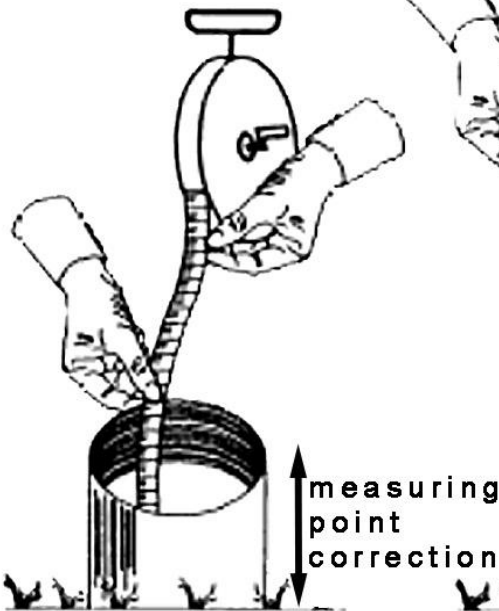
Depth to water from Land Surface
= depth to water from measuring point
minus measuring point correction ("stick-up").



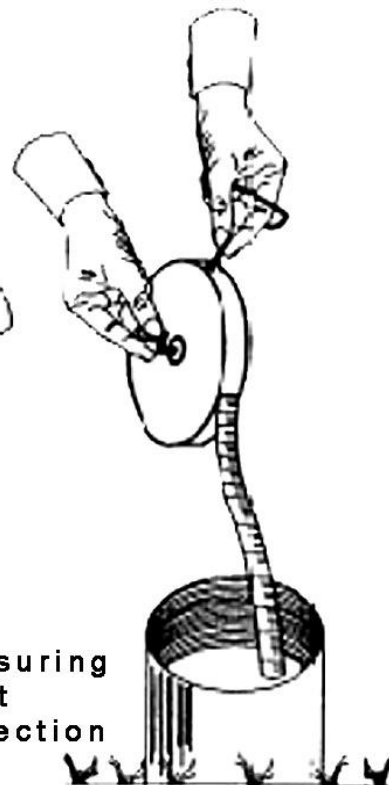
1. Chalk the tape



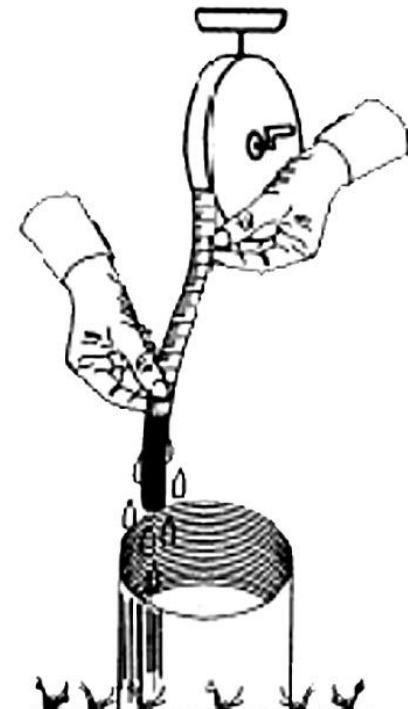
2. Lower the tape and hold the number.



3. Put the "HOLD" number by the measuring point



4. Reel the tape out of the well



5. Read the "CUT" number



Electric water-level meters.....



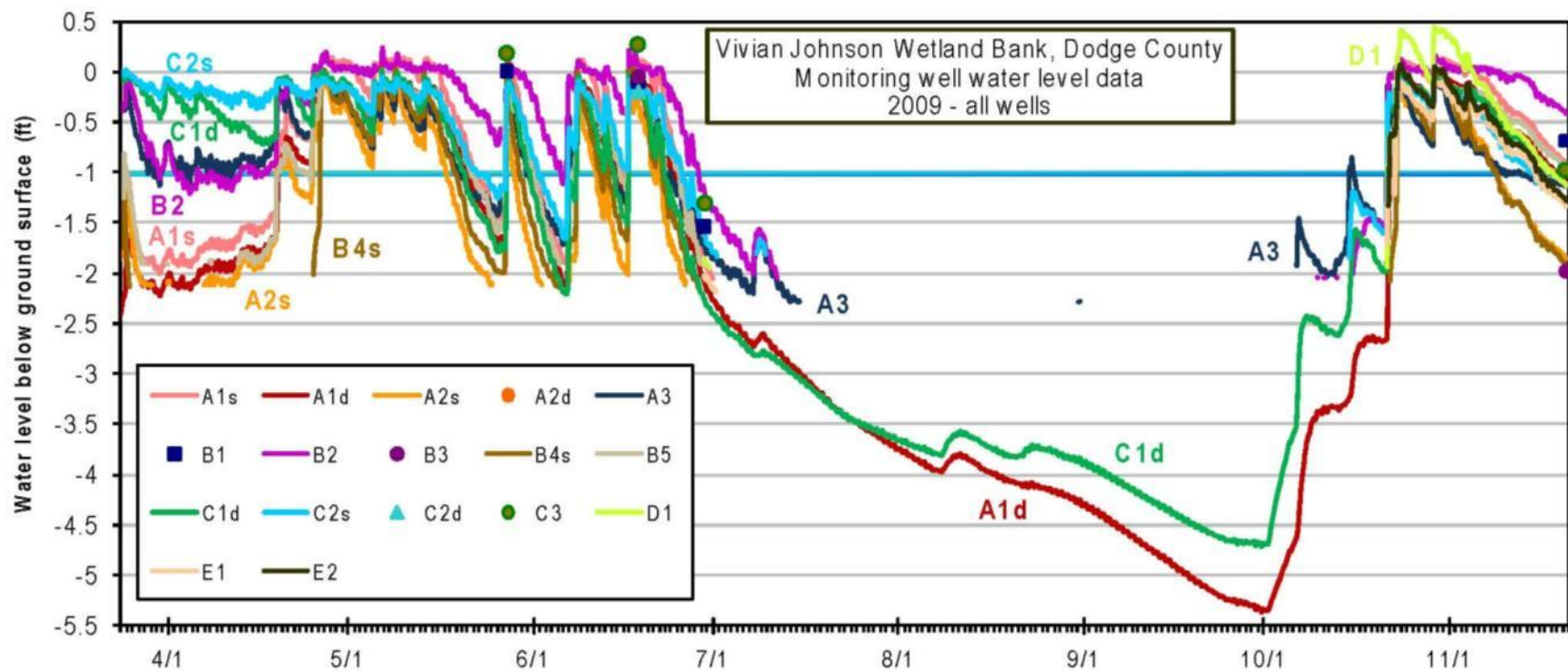
Pressure transducers & data loggers...

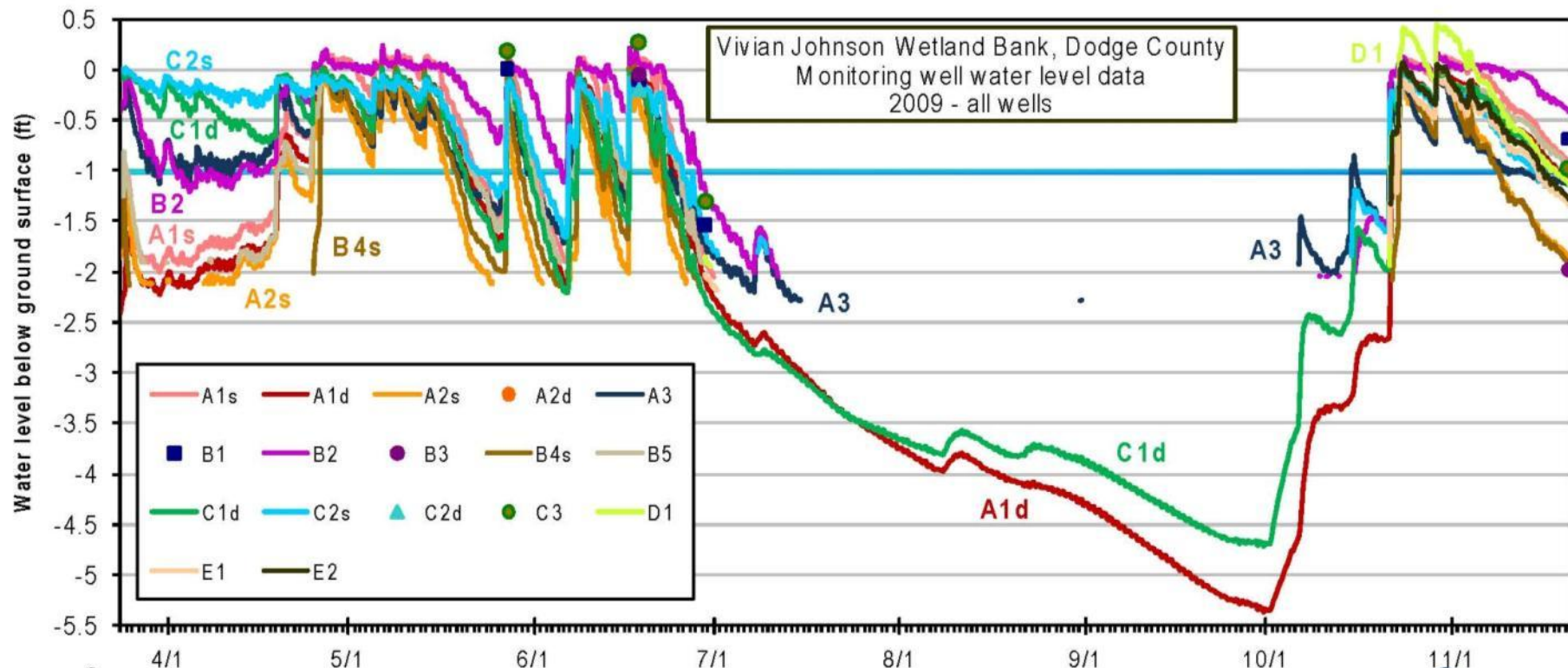
**Documentation of well
installation details and
soil characteristics is
essential for valid
interpretation of
monitoring well data!**

G159 fx =+D159-F159								
	A	B	C	D	G	H	I	K
				logger	calc	stickup	calc	
				level (ft)	logger	(ft)	logger	
7	Date	Time	Date/Time	level (ft)	below toc	(ft)	below gs	T (°C)
152	3/23/09	14:00	3/23/09 14:00	0.6006	-2.98	1.40	-1.58	0.34
153	3/23/09	16:00	3/23/09 16:00	0.5551	-3.02	1.40	-1.62	0.38
154	3/23/09	18:00	3/23/09 18:00	0.5055	-3.07	1.40	-1.67	0.41
155	3/23/09	20:00	3/23/09 20:00	0.4739	-3.11	1.40	-1.71	0.45
156	3/23/09	22:00	3/23/09 22:00	0.4700	-3.11	1.40	-1.71	0.48
157	3/24/09	0:00	3/24/09 0:00	0.5069	-3.07	1.40	-1.67	0.47
158	3/24/09	2:00	3/24/09 2:00	0.6763	-2.90	1.40	-1.50	0.40
159	3/24/09	4:00	3/24/09 4:00	0.6706	-2.91	1.40	-1.51	0.42
160	3/24/09	6:00	3/24/09 6:00	0.6373	-2.94	1.40	-1.54	0.44
161	3/24/09	8:00	3/24/09 8:00	0.6050	-2.97	1.40	-1.57	0.47
162	3/24/09	10:00	3/24/09 10:00	0.5882	-2.99	1.40	-1.59	0.49
163	3/24/09	12:00	3/24/09 12:00	0.5899	-2.99	1.40	-1.59	0.51

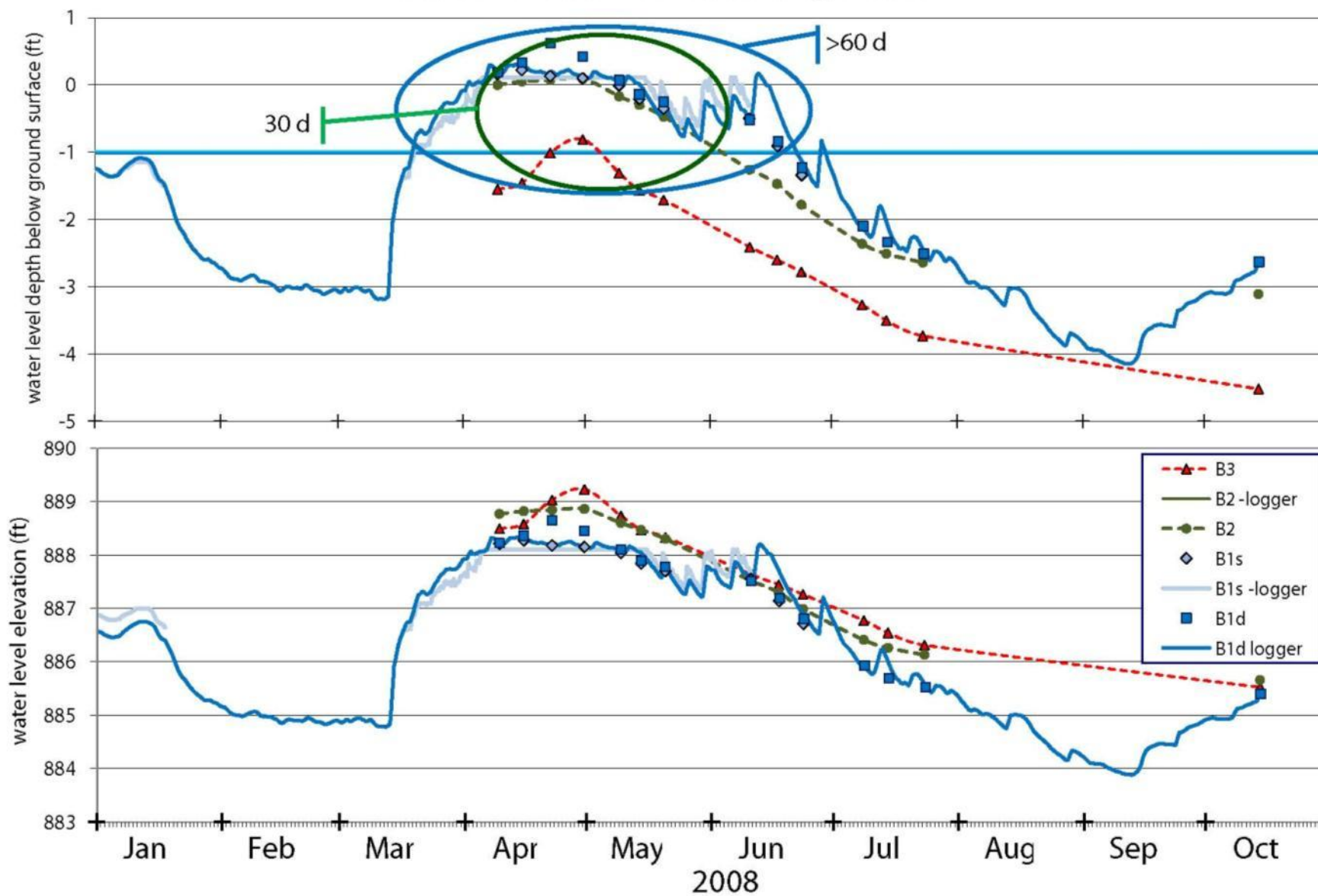
Interpreting the data.....

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
			WL-1W (peat well) or direct surface water measurement			WL-1P (#1 piezometer)			WL-2P (#2 piezometer)			WL-3P (#3 piezometer)		
1	#		3.9			8.02			8.3			15.11		
2	depth bls		95.17			94.57			96.15			100.93		
3	toc elev		1.80			1.35			1.10			1.35		
4	stickup													
5	date	year	btoc	elev	bls	btoc	elev	bls	btoc	elev	bls	btoc	elev	bls
22	03-Apr-98	1998.26	0.66	94.51	1.14	0.28	94.29	1.07	2	94.15	-0.9	6.8	94.13	-5.45
23	13-May-98	1998.37	0.88	94.29	0.92	0.41	94.16	0.94	1.82	94.33	-0.72	6.69	94.24	-5.34
24	06-Jul-98	1998.52	0.7	94.47	1.1	0.22	94.35	1.13	1.59	94.56	-0.49	6.37	94.56	-5.02
25	14-Jul-98	1998.54	0.69	94.48	1.11	0.22	94.35	1.13	1.73	94.42	-0.63	6.55	94.38	-5.2
26	15-Jul-98	1998.54							1.76	94.39	-0.66	6.58	94.35	-5.23
27	07-Apr-99	1999.27	1.02	94.15	0.78	0.60	93.97	0.75	2.45	93.7	-1.35	7.3	93.63	-5.95
28	03-Aug-99	1999.59	0.8	94.37	1	0.40	94.17	0.95	1.85	94.3	-0.75	6.7	94.23	-5.35
29	05-Jul-00	2000.51	1.14	94.03	0.66	0.54	94.03	0.81	2.16	93.99	-1.06	6.94	93.99	-5.59
30	22-Aug-00	2000.64	1.16	94.01	0.64	0.61	93.96	0.74	2.25	93.9	-1.15	7.02	93.91	-5.67
31	09-Oct-00	2000.77	1.46	93.71	0.34	0.95	93.62	0.4	2.58	93.57	-1.48	7.38	93.55	-6.03
32	14-May-01	2001.37	0.15	95.02	1.65	-0.44			1.04	95.11	0.06	5.78	95.15	-4.43
33	05-Jun-01	2001.43	0.12	95.05	1.68	-0.48			0.99	95.16	0.11	5.73	95.2	-4.38
34	10-Aug-01	2001.61	0.26	94.91	1.54	-0.35			1.15	95	-0.05	5.88	95.05	-4.53
35	12-Aug-01	2001.62							1.22	94.93	-0.12			
36	17-Jun-02	2002.46	1.09	94.08	0.71	0.47	94.10	0.88	2.16	93.99	-1.06	6.8	94.13	-5.45
37	29-Jul-02	2002.58	0.19	94.98	1.61				1	95.15	0.1	5.61	95.32	-4.26
38	29-Jul-02	2002.58							1.03	95.12	0.07	5.66	95.27	-4.31
39	03-Mar-03	2003.17							frozen			6.48	94.45	-5.13

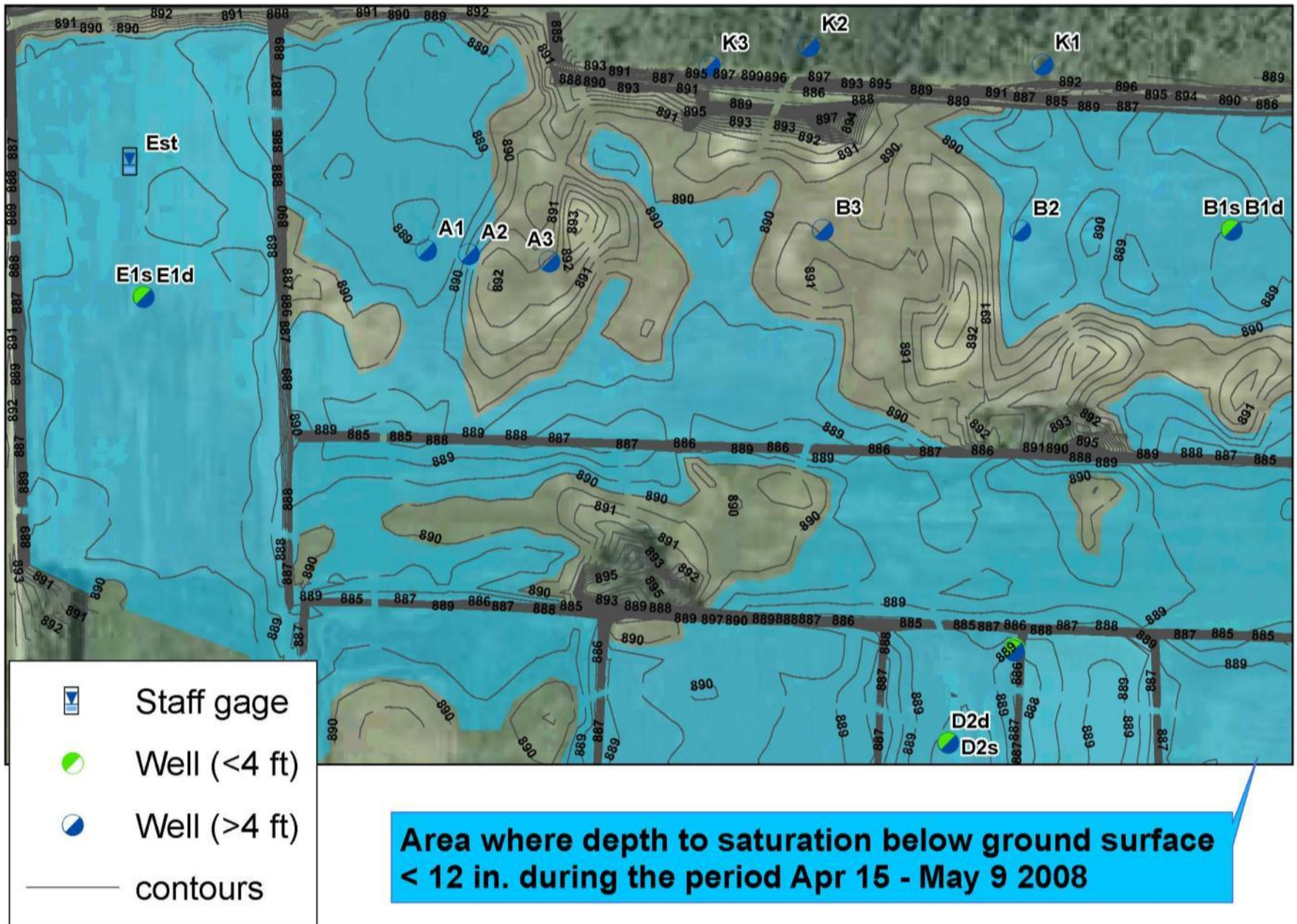




JJWMA - 'B' Wells - water levels through Oct 2009



JJWMA 2008 Hydrologic Monitoring



Monitoring Wetland Hydrology

➤ **Planning**

- Agree on objective, question to answer.
- Use appropriate method.
- Use professional judgment, landscape, topography.

➤ **Documentation**

- Locations, construction details

➤ **Maintenance**

- Check elevations, function



End

Eric Mohring

eric.mohring@state.mn.us

651-297-7360